



**BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**Board Meeting – 13 November 2003**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present to the Board for information, and provide a summary of the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) Annual Report 2003.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The BNSF Annual Report 2003, approved by East Ayrshire Council's Policy and Resources Committee on the 2 October 2002, has been prepared to meet the format and guidance provided by the Scottish Executive and was submitted in October 2003 for consideration and approval. A copy of which will be available at the Board meeting.

**3. ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY**

- 3.1 The Annual Report 2003 details progress in meeting the overall outcomes as set out in the Local Outcome Agreement against individual projects and tracks the impact that the Better Neighbourhood Services Programme is having in the pathfinder area.
- 3.2 The pursuit of these community-led outcomes continues to bring about quantifiable change in the quality of life for residents. This can be demonstrated by the results of the Community Consultation Questionnaire of July/August 2003. A total of 672 respondents participated in the consultation and the questionnaire returns were representative of gender, age group and each respective Pathfinder community as follows: 43% North West Kilmarnock; 51% Shortlees/Riccarton; 6% not answered.
- 3.3 The most positive responses to the programme have been in relation to environmental and safety focused projects, with particularly strong community support for the Environmental Hit Squads and the Community Directed Environmental Budget.
- 3.4 The main achievements of the year include:
- an increase in crime detection rates
  - improvements to road safety
  - improved estate management
  - improved upkeep of open and public spaces, and
  - increased contact with children, young people and older people.

- 3.5 The outputs that the Council and its Community Planning Partners set out to achieve are fully on target for year 2 with 76% of year 2 outputs being fully achieved, 21% largely achieve and 3% partially achieved.  
Year 3 targets consist of predominantly capital projects, notably the Shortlees and North West Kilmarnock Neighbourhood Centres.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Board note the content of this report.

**Gwen Barker**  
**Community Planning and Partnership Manager**  
**30 October 2003**