

EAST AYRSHIRE SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 19 MARCH 1999 AT 0930 HOURS IN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CONFERENCE ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillor David Sneller, Leader, East Ayrshire Council; David Montgomery, Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Bernadette Docherty, Senior Depute Director of Social Work; Gwen Barker, Service Officer (Strategies and Information), Social Work Department; William Campbell, Chief Superintendent, Strathclyde Police; Simon Keenan, Superintendent, Strathclyde Police; Steve Shanta, Enterprise Ayrshire; Stuart Mackenzie, East Ayrshire Housing Partnership; George Fraser, East Ayrshire Employment Initiative Ltd; Sheila White, East Ayrshire Business Partnership; Marion Welsh, Business Representative; Alan Porter, Matt Donnelly, and Edward Torrance, Local Committee Representatives.

ATTENDING: James Lally, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGY: Grace Moore, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board.

CHAIR: Councillor Sneller, Leader of East Ayrshire Council.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. Councillor Sneller welcomed all present to the first meeting of the East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group. He stated that the aim of the Partnership was to tackle the problems caused by exclusion and deprivation throughout East Ayrshire with a view to making real changes to local communities and individual's lives. He welcomed the Government's decision to designate the former Coalfield area in the south of the Authority as a new Social Inclusion Partnership Area and set out how collectively, by working together in partnership, significant progress could be made.

NATIONAL SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY - OVERVIEW

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 March 1999 by the Director of Social Work (tabled) which provided an overview of national developments, outlined the vision of the Social Inclusion Strategy and summarised the five key principles of prevention, empowerment, inclusiveness, integration and understanding on which the Government's approach to Social Inclusion was founded.

The Scottish Office booklet "Social Inclusion Strategy for Scotland -Opening the Door to a Better Scotland" was also tabled and it was noted that a further Scottish Office document entitled "Social Inclusion -Programme for Action" would be circulated to members of this Group at a later date.

During discussion of the above, it was agreed that a local Social Inclusion Strategy Document reflecting both the local agenda and national principles should be developed.

EAST AYRSHIRE SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP

3. The Director of Social Work gave a presentation which outlined the aims of the East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group in establishing a strategic

overview of all Social Inclusion Activity throughout East Ayrshire and ensuring the commitment and participation of all relevant partners including the local community.

Following discussion on the presentation it was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the organisational structure as detailed in the appropriate slide with public agencies reviewing membership to ensure an appropriate "Member/Officer" mix;
- (ii) to note the concerns of the Northern/Irvine Valley Local Committee Chairs and Community Representatives regarding the proposed organisational structure and their desire to be treated as separate areas;
- (iii) that, in view of the above concerns, the possibility of including a representative from both the Northern Area and the Irvine Valley on this group be investigated together with a distinct approach sensitive to local concerns in both the Northern Area and the Irvine Valley within the proposed organisation structure;
- (iv) to agree the remit of the East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group as detailed in the appropriate slide;
- (v) that "making the most effective use of existing resources and maximising external funding" be added to the remit of the Group;
- (vi) that in order to allow monitoring and evaluation of progress in relation to Social Inclusion a report be prepared for consideration at a future meeting of this Group providing information on base line indicators such as unemployment, crime and health statistics;
- (vii) that initially the group should meet on a two monthly cycle;
- (viii) to note that a £64,000 fund had been agreed by East Ayrshire Council for use by the Group to promote Social Inclusion in East Ayrshire;
- (ix) to invite each of the funding partners within the Group to make a contribution to the above fund; and
- (x) that copies of the slides used during the presentation be issued to members of the Group together with a note of this meeting .

COALFIELD AREA SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE

4. There was submitted (i) copy of East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership submission dated January 1999; (ii) report dated February 1999 on the Social Inclusion Partnership's Advisory Group's consideration of full Social Inclusion Partnership Bids; (iii) news release dated 2 March 1999 from the Scottish Office Information Directorate advising of the Government's cash boost on Social Exclusion and (iv) letter dated 2 March 1999 from Callum McDonald, Minister for Housing, Transport and European Affairs confirming that the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area had been designated a Social Inclusion Partnership.

Councillor Sneller confirmed that preliminary planning work was currently underway in respect of the Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership and that it was anticipated the Partnership would be up and running by June. He explained that an Implementation Plan had to be agreed by the Scottish Office and that a pro forma for completion in this respect was currently awaited.

It was agreed that an update report on arrangements for the implementation of the partnership should be submitted to the next meeting of this Group.

LAUNCH OF EAST AYRSHIRE SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GROUP

5. Councillor Sneller confirmed that a press conference had been arranged to formally launch the East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group and invited representatives present to attend at the close of the meeting.

The meeting terminated at 1055 hours.