

Corporate Strategy Committee
26 January 1998

Irvine, 26 January 1998 - At a Meeting of the Working Group on Applications for Regeneration Funding.

Present

James Clements, Ian Clarkson and David Gallagher.

In Attendance

A. Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer and S. Bale, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chair

Mr. Clements in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Patrick Brown and John Sillars.

1. Applications to the North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership: Councils 25% Contribution

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a prioritised list of bids for Regeneration Funding under the Urban Programme.

Previously under the Urban Programme, Councils were required to submit bids and the Scottish Office made the final decision on each individual project application. In 1996/97, the Scottish Office required Councils to establish Partnerships to bid for Regeneration Funding. Within North Ayrshire, a Partnership was established comprising representatives of North Ayrshire Council, Enterprise Ayrshire, Scottish Homes, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board, Ayrshire and Arran Community Health Care NHS Trust, North Ayrshire and Arran Hospital NHS Trust, North Ayrshire Voluntary Organisations Federation, the Federation of North Ayrshire Tenants Associations and the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A detailed bid was submitted by the North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership to the Scottish Office and the Urban Programme (Programme for Partnership) Challenge. This bid was in respect of Priority Partnership Area (PPA) Status for the eligible areas within the Three Towns of Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston and for a Regeneration Programme within the other eligible areas of North Ayrshire. The Partnership was awarded a Regeneration Programme for a 5 year period, with a part year award being made for 1996/97; £350,000 for 1997/98; and indicative awards of £700,000 per annum for 1998/99, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001. The Partnership subsequently invited local voluntary organisations and agencies to submit bids for funding in 1998/99. The Partnership members will also be considering in the future how they spend their own organisation's funds on regeneration within North Ayrshire.

The Corporate Strategy Committee on 29 July 1997, approved the structure of the Partnership, which requires the appointment of a Council representative to the Board of the Partnership.

The applications for funding from the 1998/99 Programme are currently being assessed by the Partnership. The Council's Officers Corporate Task Group on Regeneration have also considered these applications and have made their own assessment and recommendations. The Council has budgeted for the Regeneration Programme 1998/99 as awarded by the Scottish Office, with 75% of the total spending being eligible for reimbursement from the Scottish Office. The budget will be held centrally by the Corporate Strategy Committee. The Council will still

therefore require to meet a 25% contribution to each successful application, although the final decision on whether to award funding rests with the Partnership. The Council is required to indicate which applications it is prepared to support in terms of providing a sponsoring Directorate and to indicate the ranking of each bid in terms of whether it is a high, medium or low priority. If the Council does not support an application this in effect will result in a veto, as the application cannot proceed without the Council's support and 25% contribution.

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After discussion, the Working Group agreed (a) to rate the applications as detailed in the annexed report (Appendix 1); (b) that the Council's views on the applications be notified to the meeting of the Partnership Implementation Team on 29 January 1998; and (c) that Councillor Clements be appointed as the Council's representative on the Board of the Regeneration Partnership.

The Meeting ended at 3.20 p.m.