

Cllr Allan Macaskill
Chair
Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership
Kilmory Castle
LOCHGILPHEAD
PA31 8RT



Your ref:
Our ref:
Date: 1 November 2004

Dear Cllr Macaskill

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY REGENERATION

COMMUNITY VOICES PROGRAMME

The Minister for Communities has approved a new fund – the Community Voices Programme – to help people living in the most disadvantaged communities to influence and engage in the planning and delivery of services and other regeneration activity in their neighbourhoods.

Context

The programme builds on the success of the Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) which was targeted at supporting community representatives in Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs) and recent research commissioned by Communities Scotland on support for community engagement in community regeneration. The research findings, which will be published soon, confirmed the need for continued support in this area.

Community engagement rightly has an increasing profile and importance in the process of community regeneration and is a key part of the Regeneration Outcome Agreements (ROAs) currently being developed. The Community Voices Programme should be used to support the delivery of ROAs.

Broad Principles of the Programme

The aim of the programme will be to ensure that communities in Scotland can directly influence the key decisions around regeneration. Specifically:

- The programme should be targeted at engaging community representatives, other unpaid activists and volunteers and residents in the 15% most disadvantaged communities in Scotland;
- It should be aimed at all people living in disadvantaged areas, not just community representatives and will help to engage people who are often most excluded;
- Resources will be channelled through Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) and be monitored through the ROA which asks for detailed information about community engagement
- Communities themselves should have key involvement in the use of the funds;
- Account must be taken of the National Standards for Community Engagement in using the fund.

Resource Allocation

We are providing resource allocations for three years to help partnerships plan their community engagement activity. For 2005/06 we want to provide a degree of continuity in levels of funding for community engagement at a time when there is a great deal of change. However, in 2006/07 and 2007/08 we will move toward allocating resources in a way that better reflects levels of disadvantage. We have tapered funding so that no CPP budget decreases by more than 20% in 2006/07 and by no more than 40% in 2007/08. This was done in order to help CPPs manage the change from the previous allocation methodology to one that better reflects levels of disadvantage.

I can confirm that the resource allocation for Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership for the next three years will be:

2005/06 - £60,000
2006/07 - £53,000
2007/08 - £53,000

We wanted to advise you of this funding decisions as soon as possible, to allow you to plan your community engagement activity supported by the programme. More detailed conditions of grant will follow early in the new year which will draw on our recent evaluation. In the meantime, CPPs will want to start discussions about which of the partners should receive and manage the funding on behalf of the partnership.

If you have any questions regarding the programme, please contact:

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Yours sincerely



IAN MITCHELL
Acting Director of Regeneration

cc. CPP Chairs, CPP contacts, SIP contacts, Communities Scotland Social Justice Managers.