

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION ON THE CPP

At the last CPP meeting in November 2004, it was agreed that the CPP change the basis of community representation from one that focuses on 50% representation to one that focuses on a designated scrutiny role for any community representative and that the Management Committee be given responsibility to develop this further.

This item was discussed at the Management Committee meeting on 8 December 2004 and the following is an extract from the minutes of the meeting:

“Lolita briefly sketched the background to involving community representatives on all levels of the Partnership as well as some of the difficulties experienced in achieving the 50% target. Various options for involving community representatives were outlined and the following proposals made:

- 1. That active community participation be sought at the Community Assembly (Review Day), Theme Group and Local (Bute & Cowal Pilot) levels of the revised CPP structure as a more “hands on” approach to community involvement is deemed more appropriate at these levels;*
- 2. That a scrutiny role be sought at the full Partnership and Management Committee levels of the revised CPP structure as a “community watchdog” approach to community involvement is deemed more appropriate at these levels; and*
- 3. That the number/percentage of community representatives on the various levels of the revised CPP structure be flexible to reflect the different approaches taken to involve communities.*

Lolita also advised that she had received an e-mail from James Hilder of the Mull and Iona Community Trust who had expressed the need for community representatives to be properly reimbursed for travel expenses, child care expenses and loss of any wages. It was noted that an amount had already been allocated in the CPP budget for this purpose. Relevant training and capacity building needs were also discussed and it was agreed that this was crucial if community representatives were to engage fully in the community planning process. It was mentioned that Communities Scotland had some money that could be accessed for capacity building initiatives.

After discussion, and noting David Dowie’s concerns that we should not draw away from the original vision of community representation, it was agreed that:

- 1. The proposed way forward as outlined above be adopted for obtaining community representation on the various levels of the revised CPP structure;*
- 2. As a general principle, community representation be sought from sectors that reflect the main priorities that the Community Planning Partnership is trying to address;*
- 3. Each level of the revised CPP structure decide how best to involve the community in terms of the specific roles outlined above, and report progress in identifying appropriate representatives at the next meeting; and*
- 4. The Management Committee decide if additional community representatives are needed to fulfil the “scrutiny” role on the Management Committee and full Partnership and if so, which sectors they should represent.”*