

Community Planning Management Committee 18th April 2007 STRATEGIC HOUSING & COMMUNITIES FORUM - Update

- **Continuing Participation** - The meeting of 16th March 2007 in the Council Chambers, Kilmory was very well attended, with 22 individual members representing over 15 separate services and organisations. The updated remit of the group was agreed.
- A very ambitious **Agenda** indicated the range of interests/activities and the level of commitment to strategic planning in general of all participants. The following standing items were covered in some detail:
 - **Draft Community Plan** (Greater input to the editorial group, particularly from housing, was requested)
 - **Scottish Water Development Programme** (highlighting 32 projects within A&B and the “Gigha Thirsty Cow” Issue)
 - **Planning Issues** (Affordable Housing Policy, Public Planning Inquiry)
 - **Local Housing Strategy** (Local and National Housing Needs Assessments – the Bramley Report)
 - **Communities Scotland’s Investment Programme** (Latest 5 Year Projections. Currently, achieved 70% spend on this year’s funding and 60% of PSHG. Level of investment continues to be very healthy)
 - **Community Regeneration** (Annual Report. Conference in Dunoon, 28/29th March 2007)
 - **Supporting People Strategy** (Service reviews on schedule for completion by end of march 2007),
 - **National & Local Research** (including Communities Scotland’s Sustainable Development Policy and Targeting of Homestake in A&B. Re equalities - progress with Gypsies/Travellers Study noted. H&L Study progressing and successful stakeholders workshops welcomed)
- **Additional business/presentations –**
- **Strathclyde Fire & Rescue** services - informative Home Safety presentation on critical value of “sprinkler” systems. SFR expressed a keen desire to pursue partnership working on this issue.
- **Homelessness Services** - Naomi Breeze performed powerful and thought-provoking one-woman drama “H is 4”, commissioned by the Council’s Community Services. To be performed to schools and other groups as part of the extensive range of educational, awareness-raising, and preventative measures being undertaken to counter the increasingly critical problem of homelessness within A&B. Very well-received and further interest generated.
- **Council Tax on 2nd/Holiday Homes** – Forum will be consulted on use of this new revenue (£1.6m per annum for 1st 2 years + CS match funding)
- **Proposal** (on behalf of RSLs and Council’s Community Regeneration service) **to review the applicability of the SIMD** in the rural context of Argyll and Bute, and conduct research into improving rural deprivation indicators was approved in principle by the Forum and is therefore **recommended to CPP Management Group for further action.**