

## STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING FOR EUROPEAN FUNDING

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### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates the Management Committee on progress made to date regarding the preparation of a programme of Community Planning projects for European Structural Fund assistance.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Management Committee endorses the timetable proposed for the preparation and submission of project package.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As previously reported, Community Planning Partnerships are expected to prepare a programme of projects for ERDF and ESF, co-ordinated by the relevant local authority.
- 3.2 A seminar was held for Argyll and Bute CPP partners on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November. 26 partner representatives attended, and were given a presentation on the programme, process (to date) and broad eligibility criteria. There was then a discussion on the potential parameters and priorities for a CPP Programme. Although no formal guidance has yet been issued by the Scottish Executive, it is clear that a themed programme of projects, which can demonstrate strategic integration with other activities will be more favourably received by the Programme.
- 3.3 The partners' discussion ranged from the position that the CPP Strategy is broad reaching and therefore flexible, to the need for a definitive objective which will give the funded programme structure and direction.
- 3.4 Nominations were sought for a steering group to pull the bid together, the first meeting of which will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> November.
- 3.5 Key tasks will be:
- Consider strategic policy objectives
  - Identify programmed partner projects

- Identify alternative sources of funding
- Identify additionality and complementarity of projects
- Develop bid strategy and action plan

**3.6** The programme must be submitted to the Programme Executive by Spring 2008. A series of Steering Group meetings will take place to meet this deadline, and reports will be forwarded to the Management Committee as required. This will include proposals regarding the scope of the Programme's strategic objectives and proposed projects for inclusion.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

**4.1** The preparation of a programme of funded projects by the CPP for ERDF/ESF funding will provide an excellent opportunity to add value to the CPP process and implement CPP objectives.

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