

CPP PACKAGE FOR EUROPEAN FUNDING

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report updates the Management Committee on the progress of the Community Planning Partnership European Funding Package. It also seeks the formal approval of the ESF Element of the Package from the Management Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Management Committee notes the terms of this report, and more specifically;
- 2.2** That the Management Committee formally approves the ESF Element of the Community Planning Partnership European Funding Package.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** As reported previously, Community Planning Partnerships across the Highlands and Islands have been invited to prepare an integrated package of projects for European Structural Funds assistance.
- 3.2** £11 million has been made available across the Highlands and Islands to support the CPP European Funding Packages which will be allocated on a competitive basis.
- 3.3** The money to support the CPP European Funding Package will be drawn from the following sources of European Structural Funds:
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Priority 3 – Enhancing peripheral and fragile communities, and;
 - European Social Fund (ESF) Priority 1 – Increasing the workforce.
- 3.4** Although the Management Committee should note that as a result of the integrated approach to the development of the ESF Element of the Package it has been agreed by the Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme (HIPP) that the Package can draw funds from all 3 Priorities of the ESF.
- 3.5** This means that in addition to ESF Priority 1 the Package is able to draw funds from ESF Priority 2 – Investing in the workforce and ESF Priority 3 - Improving access to lifelong learning.
- 3.5** As the Management Committee will be aware after holding an information seminar about the CPP European Funding Package a steering group was set up to develop the Package. This group

has met seven times and has been developing the Package in accordance with the integrated theme of creating a Robust and Dynamic Economy in Argyll and Bute which is drawn from the Vibrant Communities vision of the CPP Action Plan.

- 3.6 In developing the CPP European Funding Package the steering group has separated the ESF Element of the Package from the ERDF Element. This decision was taken after it became apparent during the project mapping exercise that the ERDF projects needed more time to develop and meet the basic criteria of statutory permissions and match funding.
- 3.7 This means that the ESF Element of the Package will be submitted to HIPP on 11 July 2008 for approval and the ERDF element will be submitted in October 2008.
- 3.8 It should be noted by the Management Committee that the Argyll and Bute ESF Element of the CPP European Funding Package is the only CPP Package from across the Highlands and Islands being submitted to HIPP in the July round.

4 APPROVAL BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ESF ELEMENT OF THE CPP EUROPEAN FUNDING PACKAGE

- 4.1 The Management Committee is being asked to formally approve the ESF Element of the CPP European Funding Package prior to its submission to HIPP.
- 4.2 The ESF Element of the Package was circulated to the Management Committee on 2 July 2008 for consideration and comment.
- 4.3 The ESF Element of the CPP European Funding Package and is tabled today for your formal approval.

5 ERDF ELEMENT OF THE CPP EUROPEAN FUNDING PACKAGE

- 5.1 Progress with the ERDF Element of the Package will resume after the submission of the ESF Element of the Package.
- 5.2 It has been recognised that the composition of the steering group may change given that the focus of the group will be on developing the ERDF Element of the Package.

CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report updates the Management Committee on the progress of the Community Planning Partnership European Funding Package. It also seeks the formal approval of the ESF Element of the Package from the Management Committee.

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