

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Clydesdale Area Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>7 September 2010</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Regeneration Services Activity in the Clydesdale Area Committee Area</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on Regeneration Services activity in the Clydesdale Area Committee area

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted.

## 3. Background

3.1 As one of four services within Enterprise Resources, Regeneration Services is a multifunctional, cross cutting service committed to the regeneration of the communities of South Lanarkshire. It aims to promote employment, social inclusion, physical development and sustainability through working in partnership with local communities, voluntary sector bodies, the private sector and other public organisations. Regeneration services is responsible both for direct service delivery to businesses and residents as well as for services to other Council Resources. Within the Service there are four teams with responsibilities as outlined below:-

- ◆ **Regeneration and Inclusion** leads on the employability support and delivery programmes aimed at supporting people into work as well as the More Choices, More Chances programme designed to support 16/17 year olds into positive destinations. The team also has responsibility for external funding and development and support to the voluntary sector
- ◆ **Community Regeneration and Rural Development** manages the Fairer Scotland Fund programme and supporting work aimed at tackling poverty in South Lanarkshire. The team also manages the LEADER programme which provides support to rural communities and leads the Council's tourism support and development processes
- ◆ **Business Support and Property Information** undertakes business development, manages the development and implementation of asset management strategies and processes and is responsible for managing the Council's non-operational lease portfolio.
- ◆ **Property Development** carries out significant physical regeneration in towns and villages, implements commercial and industrial infrastructure projects and leads on derelict land reclamation and town centre management. It also manages the

Council's capital receipts programme and negotiates acquisitions and disposals of heritable property.

#### **4. Regeneration Services - Update on key areas of activity**

##### ***Community Regeneration and Rural Development***

##### **4.1 *Tackling Poverty***

Within the geographical approach adopted by South Lanarkshire in tackling poverty and disadvantage, the focus for support and programmes aimed at supporting people into work, improving their life chances and tackling challenging issues has drawn largely on funding provided by the Scottish Government – the Fairer Scotland Fund. The Fairer Scotland Fund was established by the Scottish Government in April 2008 with allocations of £10.21 million, £8.164 million and £6.117 million to South Lanarkshire for 2008-9, 2009-10, and 2010-11 respectively.

4.2 Programme investment is concentrated on the datazones ranked in the most deprived 15% across Scotland. In the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Report of 2009, 5 datazones within the Clydesdale Area Committee catchment were identified. These datazones were identified as Rigside-Douglas Water; Lesmahagow South; Douglas Central; Smyllum Park and Kirkmuirhill South. In a further analysis of data which contributed to the income deprivation domain, the Scottish Government identified errors which led to a recalculation and review of datazones affected by these errors. As a result, Kirkmuirhill South moved out of the worst 15% category and two new Clydesdale datazones - Carluke East and Law North, moved in.

4.3 The current FSF Programme is now in its third and final year of delivery. Within the Clydesdale Area Committee catchment, the programme supports the following initiatives:-

- ◆ Provision of rural community transport schemes in conjunction with the Rural Development Trust;
- ◆ Activities for young people aimed at diversionary approaches to address anti-social behaviour identified through Problem Solving Groups and delivered in conjunction with Regen:fx, Liber8 and Universal Connections;
- ◆ Community health improvement programmes aimed at supporting local people to take steps to better health in conjunction with Healthy Valleys
- ◆ A programme of support for vulnerable expectant mothers aimed at improving the life chances of vulnerable children, also in conjunction with Healthy Valleys
- ◆ Contributory funding for education led initiatives in schools which aim to support young people to achieve their full potential such as Active Schools and learning support;
- ◆ Support to expand credit union services to the Clydesdale Area in conjunction with South Lanarkshire Credit Union and additional advice and information support to Clydesdale Citizens Advice Bureau;
- ◆ Employability help and support programmes such as those promoted through Routes to Work South;
- ◆ Work with young people identified as within the More Choices More Chances category to assist them into positive destinations on leaving school.

4.4 All of the programmes funded through the Fairer Scotland Fund make substantial contributions to the targets within South Lanarkshire's Single Outcome Agreement.

##### **4.5 *Rural Development***

The Community Regeneration & Rural Development team also has responsibility for delivery of South Lanarkshire's successful LEADER programme which has an

allocation of £1.47 million for the period 2008 – 2013. The programme has committed 70% of the available funding and is broadly on target. Actual grant spend is running at 27% which is relatively one of the highest in Scotland and continued effort will be put into maximising spend.

- 4.6 On 1 July, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs announced that LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) would administer applications for broadband funding of 1 million Euros nationally. South Lanarkshire LAG is now responsible for collecting local applications, assessing them using existing LEADER procedures and submitting those deemed suitable to a Rural Broadband Challenge Fund. The deadline for submissions is Friday 29 October 2010 and Scottish Government intends to announce awards following assessment. There is no limit set for the value of project bids to Scottish Government or applications to LAGs and applicants can apply for 100% of project costs.
- 4.7 On 3 August 2010, the community facility and local development strategy funding within the Rural Priorities strand of the Scotland Rural Development Programme was reallocated to the national LEADER programme to be applied for and managed on a Local Action Group basis. South Lanarkshire LAG has been awarded an additional £510,000 to be spent on the reallocated measures 321 and 341. The mechanics of how this is to work in practice will be considered at the next LEADER Management Board on 26 August but this is a positive move for the area.
- 4.8 The Heritage Lottery Fund has approved £100,000 against £251,000 of project costs for the development year of the Clyde & Avon Valley Landscape Partnership Bid and has earmarked a further £1.9M grant for the stage 2 bid 2012 – 2016. Recruitment for the staff to deliver the Conservation Action Plan, which is a requirement of the development year, has now been completed and the team of three will be based in Hope Street, Lanark. The Landscape Partnership Steering Group has now formally met and the Board is due to meet for the first time on 24 August. A launch event is planned for Overton Farm on 2 October 2010 and arrangements for this are in hand.

### ***Tourism***

- 4.9 The Spring 2010 marketing campaign results to date have been very positive and show over 50,000 visitors to the [www.visitlanarkshire.com](http://www.visitlanarkshire.com) website with a resultant £80k direct economic impact into the local economy. The new International Children's Games 'micro-site' is now live on the website and includes coverage for 24 South Lanarkshire businesses. Both the Lanarkshire Accommodation Association and the Lanarkshire Attractions Association contributed towards the development costs of the micro site. Space has been secured in the International Children's Games official brochure for 5 tourism specific pages including a win a VIP trip to Lanarkshire for the Games which includes 5 nights accommodation, 2 nights' dinner and free car hire. Entries from as far as New Zealand and Australia for competition entries have already been received.
- 4.10 25,000 copies of a new Lanarkshire Events leaflet featuring 7 South Lanarkshire events are currently being distributed throughout the Central Belt. 10,000 copies of the 2010 Doors Open Day brochure are also being distributed featuring 36 South Lanarkshire buildings.

### ***Regeneration and Inclusion Routes to Inclusion***

- 4.11 The challenge to reduce unemployment remains high on the agenda. There are currently 1,608 unemployed people in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance with an unemployment rate of 4% - the South Lanarkshire figure is 4.7%, Scotland is 4.1%

and the UK rate is considerably better at 3.8%. The Council and its partners, notably Scottish Government, Jobcentre Plus/Dept of Work and Pensions and Europe are making significant investments to ensure all measures are in place to support people who want to return to work.

- 4.12 To support these efforts the Council continued to lead the delivery of the ambitious third phase of the European CPP programme. This investment is matched by the Council and represents over £2M investment in key client groups and employment sectors across South Lanarkshire. This investment will see the continued delivery of successful projects and initiatives including the introduction of a youth variation of the successful Connect 2 called Youth Connect and the expansion of the Youth Jobs Fund to offer the best start to working life for our young people. Focus remains on supporting individuals who may find difficulty in securing employment – these include people with health problems- including mental health and well being or addictions – parents, including lone parents, people with no or limited qualifications or literacy/numeracy problems.
- 4.13 To date, in the Clydesdale Area Committee area, there have been 134 people engaged on Council-funded employability programmes, of this 100 (75%) have progressed into employment with 10% (10 people) benefitting from additional training. The following provides an overview of the achievements of the range of programmes operating in the area:

**Future Jobs Fund** – in the first 3 months of the new contract phase, 45 people from the area secured employment. From October 09 to date over 650 South Lanarkshire residents have benefitted from this £7.8M, 18 month DWP contract offering 6 month wage subsidy/ community benefit programme)

**Routes to Work South** – are funded by the Council and Europe to identify, engage and progress people into work. They have engaged 111 locally people with 44 securing employment and a further 9 undergoing training.

**Connect 2** – continues to deliver significant outcomes for local people with significant barriers and issues. The most recent programme recruited 7 people onto the Social Care training programme and performance will be reported at the end of the 6 months delivery.

**Youth Jobs Fund** – designed to offer the dual benefit of helping young people, who in the current economic climate are struggling to find a job, and supporting small businesses with their recruitment needs. This provides a 50% wage subsidy for 50 weeks. There are currently 11 beneficiaries working in a wide range of local companies.

#### ***Community & Voluntary Sector***

- 4.14 The new single voluntary sector Interface, Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire, has awarded the rural support contract to Community Enterprise in conjunction with a number of local suppliers including Coalburn One-Stop Shop. Any community or voluntary organisation looking for support with governance, training, funding advice, etc can contact Community Enterprise who will provide the support required. There will be a range of publicity about the new service over the next few months. The contract will run until 31 March 2011, whereupon Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire will deliver this support direct. It is expected that there will be more development support available in the Clydesdale area for local organisations than there was in previous years.

#### ***Business Support and Property Information***

- 4.15 Business support measures play a vital role in the Council's response to the economic downturn and include working with Business Gateway; measures to

support businesses meet their commitments to the West of Scotland Loan Fund in difficult financial circumstances; promoting the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme to ensure maximum uptake and hosting targeted events such as Meet the Buyer and Lanarkshire Business Excellence Awards.

- 4.16 In the Clydesdale Area between March 2010 and July 2010, Business Support concluded 12 Leases with a value of £76,528.

### **Property Development**

- 4.17 The Property Development team continues to support partners with the promotion and implementation of important projects designed to enhance the attractiveness of the area as a place to live, work and do business. Within the Clydesdale Area Committee Area, projects currently being taken forward include:-

- ◆ **Carlisle:** as their new stadium nears completion, Carlisle Rovers will leave Loch Park and the sale to Tesco will conclude allowing them to begin work on their proposed 40,000 square feet supermarket, meeting the needs of consumers and providing new job opportunities. In addition, this will provide the Council with a capital receipt of over £10million which will support its capital programme of investment in modern infrastructure and amenities.
- ◆ **Lanark:** following the opening of the new pool, planning consent for demolition of the old pool has now been granted. Mains services have now been disconnected and the demolition contract is out to tender with works expected to be complete before the end of the calendar year. The Property Development team will continue to discuss options for the future development of this site with a view to its disposal and development as and when the economic conditions for development improve.
- ◆ **Lesmahagow:** streetscape works have now been completed in Church Square and the fountain installed in Abbey Green. Works are at an advanced stage to create new business space in a former Community Resources depot in Langdykeside and marketing is being prepared with the premises soon to be available for occupation. A site has been identified close to the existing Gateside Industrial Estate. Design and feasibility work is being undertaken for the provision of new industrial plots which could be occupied as yard space and for development of small industrial units.
- ◆ **Clyde Windfarm:** Scottish & Southern Energy is making significant progress with the provision of the basic infrastructure complete and installation of the turbines progressing. These will be generating power before the end of the year and, in turn, generating income for the Community Fund for investment in local community led projects. An officer of the Property Development team has been meeting various groups in the eligible rural area to advise on the scope, nature and processes for bringing forward proposals to the fund for financial assistance.

- 4.18 The Property Development Team negotiated the sale and purchase of land and buildings in the Clydesdale Area between March 2010 and July 2010, the following property transactions were concluded:-

- ◆ 6 disposals with a value of £105,500
- ◆ 3 acquisitions valued at £81,200

## **5. Concluding Remarks**

- 5.1 Within the comprehensive portfolio of Regeneration Services it is clear there are a number of programmes and services that make significant contributions to supporting both South Lanarkshire's economy and its people. All areas of the Service continue to make substantial contributions to the delivery of the values and

priorities of the Council Plan, "**Connect**" and to the objectives of the Community Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement.

## **6. Employee Implications**

6.1 There are no employee implications.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report with all activities being met from within existing budgets held by Enterprise Resources.

## **8. Other Implications**

8.1 There are no other implications.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

9.1 This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

9.2 Partners, local communities, service users, employers and local delivery organisations have been consulted in the design and development of the relevant components of Regeneration Services' projects and programmes.

**Colin McDowall**  
**Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)**

16 August 2010

### **Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values**

- ◆ Tackling disadvantage and deprivation
- ◆ Supporting the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth, improving skills and employability

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Relevant Enterprise Committee reports
- ◆ Report to Clydesdale Area Committee of 23 March 2010

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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