

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE ON 10 JUNE 2008

SUBJECT: SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY 2008-11

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to approve the Moray Community Planning Partnership Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 and the draft Outcome Statement.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to developing and implementing the Council's strategy and policies in relation to social inclusion in partnership with other public sector partners, voluntary sector and private sectors as appropriate.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approves the Moray Community Planning Partnership Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 (attached as Appendix 1).**
- (ii) approves, in principle, the draft Outcome Statement (attached as Appendix 2).**
- (iii) delegates authority to the Chief Executive to amend the Outcome Statement in the light of changes to the Single Outcome Agreement.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report is to present the final version of the Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 (**Appendix 1**) and to obtain Committee approval following the consultation exercise that was carried out in relation to the draft Strategy. A draft Outcome Statement is also attached to this report (**Appendix 2**).
- 3.2 At the meeting of the Policy Committee on 19 December 2007 (para 37 of the minute refers), it was agreed that the final version of the Social Inclusion Strategy should be brought back to Committee for approval. Social inclusion now falls under the remit of this Committee so the Strategy has been brought here.
- 3.3 There have been a number of developments since the draft Strategy was previously submitted to Committee. Under the funding arrangements agreed between the Scottish Government and local councils, social inclusion activities are now covered by the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) as well as the Fairer Scotland Fund. Furthermore the Scottish Government has committed itself to tackling poverty, inequality and deprivation in its Economic Strategy. SOA's, Community Planning Partnerships and the Third Sector are expected

to take responsibility for local delivery of national aspirations in this regard. An additional section has therefore been added to the Social Inclusion Strategy to explain the national context.

- 3.4 A wide-ranging consultation was carried out with respect to the draft Social Inclusion Strategy. 10 replies were received and these have been considered and integrated in the revised Strategy as appropriate.
- 3.5 The first draft of the Moray Community Planning Partnership SOA was submitted to the Scottish Government on 31 March 2008. The draft Outcome Statement associated with the Social Inclusion Strategy is based on the SOA (**Appendix 2** to this report). In view of the fact that the SOA will not be finalised until 30 June 2008, it is proposed that the Committee approves the draft Outcome Statement in principle. It is further proposed that the Chief Executive should be authorised to make amendments to the Outcome Statement in the light of any changes to the SOA that are required by the Scottish Government.
- 3.6 The introduction of the Fairer Scotland fund earlier this year will assist the development of the Social Inclusion Strategy. The first draft of the Moray Community Planning Partnership's bid for the Fairer Scotland Fund was sent to the Government in April and a final submission is the subject of another report to this Committee.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The Corporate Plan states that "The Council will support and encourage measures that achieve Social Inclusion" and a priority for the Council within the Social programme is to develop a strategic approach to advancing social inclusion and social justice. The development of social inclusion and social justice demands a Partnership approach and the Community Plan recognises this and commits the Partnership to developing a Social Inclusion Strategy. The Chief Executive's Service Improvement Plan included a commitment to develop a Social Inclusion Strategy. The strategy seeks to influence all policies, strategies and plans of the Council and its partners. The Strategy and Outcome Statement reflect the actions laid out in the Single Outcome Agreement that relate to Social Inclusion.

(b) Policy and Legal

The introduction of a 'Duty of Community Planning' through the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 emphasises the importance of considering social inclusion in the Community Planning process. As outlined in the strategy document, the Council has a number of strategy and policy documents that impact on social inclusion and social justice. The former Scottish Executive issued a series of targets, "Closing the Opportunity Gap", and these are considered within the Strategy. There are a number of National Priorities issued by the Scottish Government

and contained within Moray's Single Outcome agreement that the Strategy seeks to address. The Scottish Government announced as part of the Concordat between it and Local Government that a new fund would be created aimed at tackling poverty and deprivation across Scotland. Moray Community Planning Partnership has been given an allocation over the next three years to assist in tackling deprivation and poverty in Moray. An outline bid has been submitted by the Community Planning Partnership. A final submission has to be with the Scottish Government by 30 June 2008.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

Adoption of the Strategy and associated Outcome Statement will commit the Council to specific actions however these form part of the SOA. The Fairer Scotland Fund allocation for Moray will assist in tackling specific issues and can assist in supporting the Strategy. In 2008/09 the allocation to Moray is £343,000, in 2009/10 the allocation will be £422,000 and in 2010/11 £500,000. The allocation will be ring-fenced in the first two years of the spending review period to ensure Community Planning Partnership engagement in driving "strategic investment of these resources". It is envisaged that the ring-fencing will be removed in 2010/11 as single Outcome Agreements are concluded with Community Planning Partnerships.

(d) Consultations

The draft Strategy has been distributed across the Partnership and all relevant Council services have also been consulted.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Communities Committee is asked to approve the Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 and give approval, in principle, to the draft Outcome Statement. It is also suggested that authority should be delegated to the Chief Executive to amend the Outcome Statement in the light of changes to the Single Outcome Agreement.**

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Background Papers:

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