



**REPORT TO: SAFER & STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP ON
21 AUGUST 2008**

SUBJECT: SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY 2008-11

**BY: MORAY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Group is asked to note the approved Moray Community Planning Partnership Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 and to undertake the responsibility for the promotion, development and monitoring of the strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **It is recommended that the Group note the approved Moray Community Planning Partnership Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 and undertake the responsibility for the promotion, development and monitoring of the strategy.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At its meeting held on Thursday 7 August 2008, the Community Planning Board approved the Moray Community Planning Partnership Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 and agreed to refer responsibility of its promotion, development and monitoring to the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group.

3.1 This report is to present the final version of the Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 (**Appendix 1**) and to obtain Community Planning Partnership approval following the consultation exercise that was carried out in relation to the draft Strategy. An Outcome Statement is also attached to this report (**Appendix 2**).

3.2 The Community Planning Steering Group at its meeting on 6 December 2007 (*para 7 of the minute refers*) approved the draft Social Inclusion

Strategy for Moray and agreed that the draft Strategy should be put out for consultation, following which it should be brought back to the Partnership for approval.

- 3.3 There have been a number of developments since the draft Strategy was previously submitted to the Steering Group. 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 Moray Community Planning Partnership SOA has been agreed with the Scottish Government. The draft Outcome Statement associated with the Social Inclusion Strategy is based on the SOA (**Appendix 2** to this report).
- 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 is the subject of another report to the Board.
- 3.7 The Safer and Stronger Strategic Theme Group is the relevant theme group to promote and oversee the development of the Strategy.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans

The Community Plan commits the Partnership to developing the Social Inclusion Strategy. The Partnership will ensure that the key principles set out in the Strategy are reflected in all strategies, policies and actions plans where appropriate.

The Strategy will apply across all thematic groups however the Safer and Stronger Strategic Theme Group has the appropriate remit to oversee the Strategy. The Single Outcome Agreement contains a number of actions that contribute to the Strategy and have been listed in the attached Outcome Statement

(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.

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

Adoption of the Strategy and associated Outcome Statement will commit the Partners 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.

(d) Consultations

The draft Strategy has been distributed across the Partnership and responses have been incorporated in the Strategy. The Moray Council's Communities Committee endorsed the Strategy at its meeting on 10 June 2008.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Safer & Stronger Theme Group is asked to note the approved Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 and to undertake the responsibility for the promotion, development and monitoring of the strategy.

Author of Report: John Ferguson Community Planning and Development
Manager
Kate Freeman, Project Development Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: