
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date: 17th August 2010
Report By:	Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment	Report No: PR024/10/DH/RL
Contact Officer:	Ronny Lee	Contact No: 01475 714227
Subject:	Corporate Area Renewal Strategy Group	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the incorporation of the Corporate Area Renewal Strategy Group (the CARS Group) into the SOA (2) Social Regeneration and Area Renewal Group to reflect changes arising out of the restructuring of council services.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The CARS Group has been meeting since January 2009 with the Chair alternating between Aubrey Fawcett, Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment, and Neil Graham, the former Corporate Director Environment and Community Protection. Following the recent restructuring there is an opportunity to consider the future of the CARS Group and its contribution to the wider area renewal and regeneration agenda.

- 2.2 The CARS Group was formed in response to Committee approval of a report entitled "Area Renewal: Council Liaison Arrangements for Partnership Working" in September 2008 and the remit of the group is to ensure that all Inverclyde Council services work in an efficient and effective way with our key partners to deliver maximum benefit from investment in area renewal. The CARS Group members include representatives of council services, local RSLs, the Scottish Government Housing Investment Division (HID), the Inverclyde CHP, Strathclyde Police, and Riverside Inverclyde. The CARS Group oversees Area Renewal Task Groups in 5 areas - Woodhall, Clune Park, Gibshill, Greenock Central East, and Greenock South West.

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- 2.3 The SOA (2) Group, which is currently chaired by Supt. Manders of Strathclyde Police, also has a strong focus on area renewal and it has always been the intention of the CARS Group to ensure that physical renewal works are accompanied by social and economic regeneration, and environmental improvements. In view of these clear and continuing links between the two groups, it is recommended that the CARS Group be incorporated into the SOA (2) Group with immediate effect. The Corporate Directors of Regeneration and Environment and Education and Communities will attend the SOA (2) Group to ensure continuity of regeneration and planning, and of strategic housing input to the group.

- 2.4 The CARS Group is responsible for overseeing and reporting on progress to the Regeneration Committee on the Area Renewal Fund of which £75,000 remains to be allocated. It is proposed that the Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment would consult the SOA (2) Group on proposals prior to submission to the Regeneration Committee for consideration and final approval. The Corporate Director would administer the fund on behalf of the SOA (2) Group. In addition, it is also proposed that the Community Facilities Fund of £750,000, which was approved in February 2010, be managed in a similar manner to the Area Renewal Fund. It should be noted that approved proposals must be in line with the Council's corporate priorities.

2.5 The Scottish Government Housing Investment Division (HID) has played a key role in the work of the CARS Group but is not currently represented on any of the SOA Outcome Delivery Groups. It will be necessary therefore to formally invite the HID to sit on the SOA (2) Group. Committee approval for this invitation is requested in the Recommendations below (paragraph 3.1 (b)).

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee is asked to: -

- (a) Approve the incorporation of the Corporate Area Renewal Strategy Group into the SOA (2) Group.
- (b) Invite representatives of the Scottish Government Housing Investment Division to join the SOA (2) Group.
- (c) Acknowledge the work undertaken by the CARS Group to date.
- (d) Approve that the SOA (2) Group takes on responsibility for:
 - Overseeing and reporting on progress of the implementation of the Area Renewal Fund; and,
 - Consultation with the Corporate Director Regeneration and Resources on Area Renewal Fund proposals, which should be in line with the Council's corporate priorities, prior to submission to the Regeneration Committee for consideration and final approval.
- (e) Note that the arrangements for administration and disbursement of the Community Facilities Fund of £750,000, which was approved in February 2010, will be the subject of a separate report to the Regeneration Committee.

Aubrey Fawcett
Corporate Director
Regeneration and Environment