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A CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS IN WESTERN SCOTLAND

Project Title **Glasgow Key Fund**
Project Sponsor **Glasgow Alliance**

PROJECT ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

During discussions with the European Commission, information was provided on a successful Key Fund which had been operating in South Yorkshire. A delegation involving both Strathclyde European Partnership Ltd staff and Community Economic Development representatives visited Yorkshire to learn more about the principles required for the operation of Key Funds. A pilot project was then established in areas of Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Inverclyde.

The first and pilot phase of the Glasgow Key Fund ran between December 1999 and December 2001. Phase II was supported by the 2000-2006 Western Scotland Objective 2 Programme (ERDF) and operated until December 2004.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To establish a small grants fund which enables small, community-led organisations to access European Structural Funds for local, economically focused projects. Grants may be used to:

- create jobs
- get people ready for work
- get people in to work
- organise and engage communities.

Applications for religious or party political purposes, or from organisations whose Key Fund projects would operate outwith the named partnership boundary areas were not eligible for support. It was also unlikely that applications would have been considered from organisations that can, or have accessed European Structural Funds previously.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project was delivered and promoted by the Glasgow Alliance through its network of eight, area-based Social Inclusion Partnerships. The Alliance played a central role in managing the finances of the Fund and in the strategic co-ordination across the city. The application process was designed to be straightforward, flexible and speedy. Grants of up to £30,000 were available for activities which had an economic focus. Grant payments were released in advance of anticipated expenditure and applicants were not required to source match funding.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

Glasgow Alliance was required to establish a separate legal entity to manage the project – Glasgow Key Fund Ltd – in order to meet European Commission regulations. The Board of Glasgow Key Fund Ltd comprised one director nominated by the Board of each participating Social Inclusion Partnership (Castlemilk, Drumchapel, East End, Gorbals, Greater Easterhouse, Greater Govan, Greater Pollok and North Glasgow) and representatives of Scottish Enterprise Glasgow, Glasgow City Council and GCVS. This

model provided an effective means of sharing good practice across quite disparate areas and enabled the Fund to achieve a good level of consistency in its core application and monitoring documentation.

PROJECT FINANCE

Funding Partners	Castlemilk Partnership, Drumchapel SIP, East End SIP, Gorbals SIP, Greater Easterhouse SIP, Greater Govan SIP, Greater Pollok SIP and North Glasgow SIP (Milton, Springburn/East Balornock and North Glasgow), plus funding from Greater Glasgow Health Board.
Eligible Costs (£)	£2.5 million (50%)
ERDF/ESF Support (£)	£1.2 million
Priority/Measure	Priority 3: Increase the economic and social cohesion of the region Measure 3.1: Community-based regeneration

PROJECT PERFORMANCE

At the time of writing, June 2007, this project was on-going.

Indicator	Target	Achievement	% Target Achieved
No of community employment/learning projects supported	62	49	79.03%
No of community ICT projects supported	18	17	94.44%
No of gross new jobs directly related to environmental activity	6	3.8	63.33%
No of people using community employment/learning projects	418	217	51.91%