Response to the Community Empowerment Bill:

**Part 2:**

**Community Planning.**

Schedule 1
Community Planning Partners.

1. Third Sector: given the importance, both economic and social, that the Third Sector plays in community development, the Bill should consider giving it a much higher prominence within Community Planning. This would be possible since the establishment and the increasing strength and sophistication of local Interfaces is leading them going beyond administrative bodies and becoming service providers for the Third Sector.

2. One recommendation from the ‘Community Council Short Life Report 2012’ was

- **That as a matter of course, through a suitable forum, Community Councils have a principal role in Community Planning Partnerships by identifying the most appropriate group to represent specific community views for the purpose of community planning.**

In East Ayrshire this was practice before the Report:

**About:** The Coalfield Communities Federation (CCF) is a representative body of communities within the Coalfield Area of East Ayrshire and acts as a key mechanism to ensure that the community is fully integrated in the activities of East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

The CCF provides a forum through which the activities of the CPP can be made known and debated throughout the Coalfield Area as well as ensuring that partnership activity reflects local need. The CCF has representation on the CPP Board and assists to inform strategies and future programmes promoted and funded by the CPP. The CCF is also practically involved in the design and realisation of local projects and initiatives.

This fragile arrangement will end in 2015 however as a result of the grant funding being terminated by the newly formed Grants Committee. Where the decision making process was carried out on a cost-benefit basis.

We feel that the recommendation above was sound it should be supported and where arrangements of this sort are made they should be given some form of protection.