

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 1 DECEMBER 2010

CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FLOWERBANK NURSERY AND FAMILY CENTRE AND KILMARNOCK AREA DAY CENTRE

Report by the Executive Head of IT and Asset Management

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to proceed with proposals forming part of the Council's Capital Programme in respect of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre and the provision of an Adult Day Services Facility.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre is currently located in a building which became a nursery in June 1945; it is a two storey building which is no longer suited. The main functions of the Nursery and Family Centre include the provision of a number of visiting specialists supporting children, such as:

- Peripatetic Early Years Teacher
- Physiotherapists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Hearing Impairment Specialists

Flowerbank Nursery & Family Centre is the only facility of this nature located in the town centre of Kilmarnock. It has 56 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) places for children aged 0-5 years. There are currently 74 children attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre who are either in need of protection or who are in need as defined by the Children Scotland Act 1995 or have additional support for learning needs. The Standard in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 places a statutory responsibility on local authorities to provide a pre-school education place for every parent who wishes one for their child. The provision of daycare for children under 3 years of age is set within the context of the Children Scotland Act 1995 and the Education (Additional Support for Learning) Act 2004.

In order to ensure future continuity of service provision in a compliant, fit for purpose asset an allocation of £1.75m was identified under the EAC Capital Programme.

- 2.2 Similarly the Capital Programme includes an allocation of £2.5m within the Capital Programme to deliver a fit for purpose adult day services facility to be located within central Kilmarnock. It is intended that the resource will provide an opportunity to further develop a flexible and responsive day service.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Following discussions with Educational and Social Services, it was considered that refurbishment of the current Woodstock School, following re-location in

2012 to the new Willowbank campus, was the best option for the Flowerbank Nursery School project.

- 3.2 The Head of IT and Asset Management has advised that there are no town centre sites in the Council's ownership which could accommodate the new Kilmarnock Area Day Centre. Work has however been done which confirms that a new build co-located option at Woodstock is feasible. In addition this new facility may offer opportunities to deliver community facilities which are currently lacking in the area.
- 3.3 If Cabinet are minded to agree that co-location is an appropriate way forward, the project will be formally constituted and detailed plans, costings and timescales prepared on this basis, in consultation with the relevant Heads of Service for future consideration. The decision to relocate the present Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre will require a statutory consultation exercise.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Capital Programme has currently allocated resources of £1.75m in respect of the Flowerbank project and a total of £2.5m in relation to the provision of Kilmarnock Area Day Centre; it is anticipated that savings can be identified in the provision of consolidated services, facility, infrastructure and the avoidance of land acquisition costs.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

6. POLICY AND COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposals contained within this Report will create a new service facility within Kilmarnock town centre in furtherance of the Town Centre Strategy.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is recommended that Members;
- i) Ask the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to provide a future report to Cabinet on the relocation of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre to the present Woodstock School site at the commencement of a statutory consultation exercise.
 - ii) Agree that detailed plans are developed and progressed to take the option of locating both Flowerbank Nursery School and Kilmarnock Area Day Centre at the Woodstock site to the next stage

Alex McPhee
Executive Director of Finance & Corporate Support
23 November 2010

BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL

For further information, please contact Malcolm Roulston, Implementation officer
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