

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 18 AUGUST 2010

ETHNIC MINORITIES LAW CENTRE (EMLC) – GRANT APPLICATION

Report by Depute Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to ask Cabinet to consider a request for funding from the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre (EMLC) and to make recommendations accordingly.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Ethnic Minorities Law Centre (EMLC) was established in 1991 to address the unmet legal needs of ethnic minority communities in certain parts of Glasgow.
- 2.2 It has the overall aim of promoting racial equality through the provision of culturally sensitive legal advice, information and representation on a wide variety of issues, including racial discrimination, welfare rights, employment law, family law, housing law, debt advice and immigration.
- 2.3 In 2009/10, the EMLC sought a grant of £10,238. Cabinet at its meeting on 20 May 2009 approved a grant of £6,954.

3. PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 The EMLC has indicated that there are currently 44 ongoing cases from the East Ayrshire area; 14 of which were new cases in the financial year 2009/10.
- 3.2 The table below indicates the number of new cases that the EMLC stated came from East Ayrshire, this is compared to the number of cases from surrounding local authorities and the amount of funding received in 2009/10, which is as follows:

Local Authority	New Cases 2009/10	Funding Provided in 2009/10
East Ayrshire Council	14	£6,954
East Renfrewshire Council	23	£2,000
North Ayrshire Council	3	£1,000
Renfrewshire Council	27	£2,250
South Ayrshire Council	21	£1,000

- 3.3 As can be seen from the above table East Ayrshire Council has been providing a grant proportionately higher than other Councils.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The grant funding sought from the EMLC for Financial Year 2010/11 is £10,580. EMLC state that this will enable the outreach service to continue based on current usage from residents in East Ayrshire.
- 4.2 In awarding previous grants the Council has never granted full amounts sought by the EMLC.
- 4.3 Given the level of cases within East Ayrshire and the level of funding given by other Councils, it is proposed that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to the EMLC for financial year 2010/11.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As stated in paragraph 4.2, in Financial Year 2009/10, Cabinet approved a grant of £6,954 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre. The grant of £1,000 can be met from within the existing departmental budget.

6. POLICY AND LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 Supporting the grant application promotes the Council's commitment to equal opportunities and its requirements as a public body under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Supporting the EMLC will contribute to achieving the equalities objectives of the Community Plan.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The funding application has undergone a financial risk management process as part of the Council's arrangements under Following The Public Pound.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) agree that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre for financial year 2010/11.
- (ii) endorse the development of continuing links with the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre in the context of its overall consultation and engagement arrangements; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Grant Application 2009/10: TC 4463
2. Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support on the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre – Grant Application to Cabinet Meeting of 20 May 2009.

Members wishing further information should contact Martin Rose, Head of Human Resources, (01563) 576092