

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 18 JUNE 2008

DUMFRIES HOUSE: PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to indicate the proposed involvement of the East Ayrshire Council's onsite Catering Service in supporting the development of Dumfries House as a visitor attraction within East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2007 The Great Steward's Dumfries House Trust was established to organise the marketing, presentation and maintenance of the house.
- 2.2 Onsite services managers have subsequently had a number of meetings with the Chief Executive of Dumfries House to discuss involvement and arrangements.
- 2.3 Visitors to Dumfries House will be organised by tours only. Plans have now been established to support this with a catering service provided by onsite services staff with tea, coffee, scones and sandwiches or other catering by arrangement and will be produced from local schools principally Auchinleck Academy.
- 2.4 It is anticipated that the service will be run Wednesday to Sunday each week for 26 weeks of the year with up to an estimated 28,000 visitors expected per year.
- 2.5 Further catering opportunities may develop as the facilities at Dumfries House are improved.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Onsite will charge Dumfries House direct for this service based on £4.25 per head (ex VAT) in line with current function catering rates and commercially comparable prices. Assuming a 50% of visitor numbers request catering this would bring an additional £60,000 of income to the service.
- 3.2 The full cost of the service with an element of profit will be contained within expected income levels with food costs, transport and staffing. The actual costs variable in line with sales.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Activities which use surplus capacity and exercise the Council's Power of Wellbeing are allowed in Terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003.
- 4.2 The arrangement to provide the catering service is not at this time formalised by an contractual requirement and therefore can be ended by either the Council or Dumfries House at any time.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This opportunity supports economic development in the area, promotes local businesses and food producers and can increase employment and training opportunities for local people.

It supports a number of Community Planning commitments including Community Learning, Improving Opportunities and Eliminating Poverty.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The financial risk is strictly controlled as costs will be based on the number of customers and if minimal numbers request catering then correspondingly there will be limited staff and transport expenditure.
- 6.2 Food Safety issues for any catering provision presents risk. The risk is assessed and controlled by the Onsite food safety system.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members are asked to agree:
- (i) to Onsite Services providing catering as required to support to the development of Dumfries House; and
 - (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

Graham R Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GS/RG
14 May 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members requiring further information should contact Robin Gourlay, Head of Facilities Management tel: (01563) 576089.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

Robin Gourlay, Head of Facilities Management