

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 20 MAY 2009

ETHNIC MINORITIES LAW CENTRE (EMLC) – GRANT APPLICATION

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 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 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 The Ethnic Minorities Law Centre delivers an outreach service which covers six other areas along with East Ayrshire.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The grant funding sought for this financial year £10,238 which is the proposed East Ayrshire contribution to enable the outreach service to continue, based on current usage from residents in East Ayrshire.

4. PERFORMANCE

- 4.1 There have been 12 one off inquiries and there are currently 40 ongoing cases from the East Ayrshire area. The service will continue to address the overall aims of promoting racial equality through the provision of culturally sensitive services.
- 4.2 In 2009/10 the outreach service will continue to focus on working with KULOC, IQRAA and other ethnic minority organisations to raise awareness of the service in East Ayrshire. In addition EMLC will be developing its liaison work with the local Citizens Advice Bureau.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In financial year 2008/09 Cabinet approved a grant of £6,752 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre. It is proposed, given the financial resources available, that Cabinet approves a grant award of £6,954 for 2009/10 which includes an inflationary uplift consistent with other grants approved by the Council.

6. POLICY & 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 Ethnic Minorities Law Centre is a key strand in relation to equalities which is reflected within 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 a grant of £6,954 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre for financial year 2009/10 subject to funding from other appropriate local authorities;
- (ii) endorse the development of continuing links with the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre in the context of its overall consultation and engagement arrangements; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

30 April 2009

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Grant Application 2009/10: TC 4283

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