

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET - 23 JUNE 2010

GRANT FUNDING APPLICATIONS: EAST AYRSHIRE ACCESS PANEL (NORTH DISTRICT) AND CUMNOCK & DOON VALLEY ACCESS PANEL

Report by Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of a joint grant funding request from the East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) and Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel and to make recommendations accordingly.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At the Policy & Resources Committee of 7 February 2007 a report was presented by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support regarding future funding of East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) and Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel.
- 2.2** Policy & Resources Committee provided funding for 2007/08 and agreed that future funding for these organisations be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee and it is now appropriate to submit these matters to Cabinet.
- 2.3** The remit of the East Ayrshire Access Panel is to improve the built environment for all, but essentially ensure that all disabled people can get access to all buildings and services.
- 2.4** The remit of the Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel is to endeavour to make a difference to the whole community re:- building, transport, goods, services, health and leisure and giving everyone a better lifestyle.
- 2.5** East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) and Cumnock & Doon Valley Access Panel also promote the rights for access for all people with disabilities to all places, buildings and services and are key voluntary sector organisations involved in the Council's Equalities Forum and provide practical feedback on inclusive design issues for all public sector developments.
- 2.6** Both Access Panels are voluntary groups who provide a valuable contribution in the consultation process during the assessment and determination of planning applications and building warrants where the proposals impact on the public and service users. This has also been acknowledged by the Scottish Government Building Standards Division although funding is deferred to local councils for applications such as this.

3. PURPOSE OF GRANT REQUEST

- 3.1 The purpose of the grant request is to support the East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) and Cumnock & Doon Valley Access Panel in relation to general running costs.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The joint amount of funding requested by the both Access Panel is £10,095. This funding allocation consists of £7,130 to East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) and includes costs for transport, communication, audit fee and insurance and £2,965 to Cumnock & Doon Valley Access Panel and includes transport, running costs catering, signers and insurance.
- 4.2 Annual provision of £11,300 has been made in 2010/11 within Central Services for Access Panels and Disability Forums £2,810 for East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability and £8,490 for Access Panels.
- 4.3 A separate report will be considered by the Cabinet on a request from East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability which recommends an award of £2,810.
- 4.4 The Assessing Officer has recommended a total award of £8,490 (£3,642 for Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel and £4,848 for East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District). This recommendation is based on last year's spend by the groups plus a 1% increase. This has been discussed with the groups who have indicated that they would be able to continue to provide a service to the community but may have to be more selective in which proposals they respond to.

5. LEGAL/PERSONNEL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- 6.1 The provision of support to these groups meets the overall aims of the East Ayrshire Community Plan in relation to Improving the Environment and supports the Council in terms of diversity and equality.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 A full grant assessment has been completed in respect of the grant application.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- i) agree to the funding request of £8,490 for the East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) and Cumnock & Doon Valley Access Panel as outlined in paragraph 4.4 above; and
- ii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Alex McPhee
Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

17 June 2010
CB/KS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) and Cumnock & Doon Valley Access Panel Grant Application – TC4311

Members wishing further information should contact David McDowall, Building Standards Manager, Tel: 01563 576749.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: BILL WALKINSHAW