

# **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 29 JUNE 2011**

## **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 also 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's 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 as detailed below:-

**3.2** East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) – Transport - £2000, Admin costs £1150, Communication costs - £1050 and Auditors Fee/Insurance - £650

**3.3** Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel – Transport - £1,385, Running costs £465, Catering - £300, Signers - £600, Events and Site Visits - £1000 and Insurance - £270

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** The joint amount of funding requested by the both Access Panel is £8,870. This funding allocation consists of £4,850 to East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) and includes costs for transport, communication, audit fee and insurance and £4,020 to Cumnock & Doon Valley Access Panel and includes transport, running costs catering, signers and insurance.

**4.2** Annual provision of £8,490 has been made within the 2011/12 Central Services budget for the Joint Access Panel grant. The requested grant submitted by both Access Panels amounts to £8,870. The grant bid is £380 greater than the budget allocation and therefore both groups will require to rationalise their forthcoming spend so that their expenditure is within budget.

### **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 total funding request of £8,490 to the Access Panels split as follows - East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) - £4641 and Cumnock & Doon Valley Access Panel - £3849; and
- ii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Alex McPhee  
Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support

15 June 2011

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. East Ayrshire Access Panel (North District) and Cumnock & Doon Valley Access Panel Grant Application – TC4958

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

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: BILL WALKINSHAW**