

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 31ST JANUARY 2007

DOON VALLEY SWIMMING POOL – SPORTS LOTTERY AWARD

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the successful outcome of a Sports Lottery funding bid to improve and expand the range of facilities available at the Doon Valley Swimming Pool in Dalmellington.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Responsibility for the management of the Doon Valley Swimming Pool passed to Leisure Services from the Educational and Social Services Department in April 2006. Leisure Services is now responsible for all aspects of the management of the facility and works closely with the Head Teacher and staff at Doon Academy to provide an activity programme to meet the needs of the local community and the school.
- 2.2 During the negotiations that took place leading up to the transfer of management responsibility the potential for developing and improving facilities was highlighted. Key areas identified for attention were: improvements to changing facilities including removal of the basket room system; provision of a Dance studio; provision of a Fitness Suite; creation of a new reception area and improvements to access to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.
- 2.3 An officer team which included representatives from Leisure Services, Doon Academy and Technical Services developed a project to address the priority areas. A funding bid was submitted to **sportscotland** in summer 2006 and notification that the bid had been successful was received in late November.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Doon Valley Swimming Pool project will create new facilities and significantly improve the existing swimming facility and because of this **sportscotland** have approved a grant of 50% of the total project cost, the maximum they can award. The total project cost amounts to £550,580 with **sportscotland** committed to a grant of £275,290.
- 3.2 The Council's contribution to the project is made up of funds from Educational and Social Services (from the School Improvement Fund), Leisure Services, and Property Services. A capital contribution of £75,000 will be required from the Community Services Committee in 2007/08 and this will be brought forward for consideration in due course. If the Council is unable to fund its share of the project costs the sportslottery grant offer will be withdrawn.

3.3 Officers are currently working on the submission of further details requested by **sportscotland** relating to the management and programming of the new facilities, however these are standard requirements and should not prove problematic. Detailed discussions will be held with **sportscotland** to agree tendering arrangements and timescales for the building work involved. Work will be programmed in conjunction with the staff at Doon Academy and the aim will be to minimise any disruption to the school timetable, however a temporary closure of the swimming pool will be necessary to allow building work to take place.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 **Sportscotland** have agreed to meet 50% of the total project cost of £550,580. The Committee will be asked to allocate £75,000 from the 2007/08 capital programme to complete its funding package and allow the project to go ahead.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY / IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. POLICY / COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The improvements to the facilities at Doon Valley Swimming Pool will provide benefits to the local community and local schools, supporting the aims of the Community Plan in terms of Improving Health, Improving Opportunities and Promoting Community Learning.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The new Dance Studio, Fitness Suite and Changing / Reception facilities at Doon Valley Swimming Pool will provide considerable benefits to Doon Academy and the local community. **Sportscotland** recognise that joint use of sports facilities on school sites, allowing both the local community and the school to access facilities in a shared programme, is a cost effective way of improving access to sports and leisure opportunities in many communities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG

15th January 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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