

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE –24th March 2004

MAJOR GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS – KILMARNOCK LEISURE CENTRE TRUST

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the level of grant provided to the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust for 2004/2005.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that in response to changing guidance regarding grants to external organisations of over £5,000, Service Level Agreements were introduced and approved in February 2003. These Service Level Agreements are continuing to be monitored and reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate and effective.
- 2.2 The Council provided financial support of £130,000 to the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust in 2003/2004 to support the running costs of the Galleon Leisure Centre. A similar amount has been requested for 2004/2005.
- 2.3. The Galleon Centre is an excellent facility which is very well attended by the people of East Ayrshire. The extension to the gym and upgrade of the ice rink and changing room areas has enhanced the quality of provision to the 365,300 users who accessed the service in 2003/04. The Centre have also received the Investors In People and Leisure Industry Quality Standard award (QUEST)

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Service Level Agreement for the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust is based on a requirement to provide a wide range of sports and leisure opportunities for the whole community. The Galleon Centre consistently outperforms other similar facilities in Scotland in terms of its level of operational subsidy and continues to be managed and marketed effectively. A revenue subsidy of £130,000 is considered appropriate for 2004/2005.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The grant recommended for approval in this report can be met from the budget approved for the Community Services Committee.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council is committed to underwriting the revenue cost of the Galleon Centre to a maximum of £200,000 per year. The figure of £130,000 represents a reasonable assessment of the requirement for 2004/05.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Service Level Agreement for the organisation referred to in this report is in line with Council guidance on grants to external bodies and is required to be reviewed on an annual basis.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Service Level Agreements will ensure that the Council's expectations and the responsibilities of the external organisations are being met in the delivery of services supported by Council funding.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that members:-
- (i) approve a grant of £130,000 to the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust for 2004/2005;
 - (ii) that it be remitted to the Director of Community Services to submit appropriate progress reports in 2004/2005; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/KH

3RD March 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust – Service Level Agreement
2. Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust – Grant Assessment Report

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576264 and ask for John Griffiths.

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