

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2005**

#### **MAJOR GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS:- KILMARNOCK LEISURE CENTRE TRUST AND CUMNOCK AND DISTRICT LEISURE GROUP – PROGRESS REPORTS**

##### **Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a progress report on the performance of the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust (KLCT) and Cumnock and District Leisure Group (CDLG) in relation to the leisure facilities these organisations provide with financial support from the Council.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2005, the Committee agreed to provide grant assistance to both KLCT (£90,000) and CDLG (£90,000). The KLCT is responsible for the management of the Galleon Leisure Centre, Kilmarnock and the CDLG is responsible for the Visions Leisure Centre in Cumnock.
- 2.2 Support for both organisations is underpinned by Service Level Agreements which have been agreed by the Committee and these agreements ensure that the facilities are operated effectively and meet community needs.

### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **3.1 Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust**

- 3.1.1 The Galleon Leisure Centre continues to operate in line with the Service Level Agreement and continues to deliver a very high level of financial performance when compared to industry standards. The subsidy required to operate the Galleon Centre is far lower than that required for similar facilities in Scotland.
- 3.1.2 Regular performance reports are submitted to the KLCT Board, which includes Members of the Council. These reports cover operational issues, financial monitoring and customer numbers monitoring. The General Manager of the Trust liaises with Leisure Services staff on a regular basis and major issues are discussed with the Head of Leisure Services.

3.1.3 The usage trends at the Galleon Leisure Centre show a fall in swimming numbers, in line with national trends and reflecting the opening of Visions and the need to update changing facilities. The fitness facility, Excels, continues to exceed expectations. Gold Card membership sales remain strong.

3.1.4 Financial performance for 2005/06 should outturn in line with budget projections, however it is likely that an increased subsidy will be required in 2006/07 due to the need to meet rising costs particularly for energy use and also to address maintenance issues now being faced in an ageing building. An application for funding for 2006/07 will be received and assessed in due course and this will be reported to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration.

### 3.2 Cumnock and District Leisure Group

3.2.1 Visions opened on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2004 and has just completed its first full year of trading. The facilities have been very well received and supported and the CDLG are actively considering extending the facilities available to cope with demand. The facility is operating within the terms of the Service Level Agreement.

3.2.2 The CDLG Board, which includes Council Members, meets on a regular basis and receives detailed progress reports on all aspects of the facilities performance. Board meetings are also attended by the Head of Leisure Services.

3.2.3 Visions are meeting its targets for user numbers and Gold Card membership sales have exceeded expectations.

3.2.4 Detailed budget projections are being developed for 2006/07 and it is likely that a grant in excess of £90,000 will be requested by the CDLG. Any application for increased funding will be assessed following the Council's approved procedures and will be presented to the Committee for consideration in due course.

## 4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no financial implications for 2005/06 relating to this report as both organisations should be able to operate without submitting additional requests for funding to the Committee.

4.2 Any additional funding requirements for 2006/07 will be brought forward for Committee consideration in due course.

## 5. **LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Nil

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Progress reports are presented to ensure that the Council's obligations under the Following the Public Pound Guidance are met.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The grants to KLCT and CDLG are being utilised in accordance with the Service Level Agreements in place. Management performance is effectively monitored and both groups have regular Board meetings to receive reports and consider issues.

- 7.2 Indications have been received that both groups will be submitting applications for additional revenue funding for 2006/07 and these applications will be put forward for Committee consideration in due course.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the progress reports in relation to the grants given to the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust and the Cumnock and District Leisure Group.

William Stafford

**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

WS/JAG/KH

14<sup>th</sup> October 2005

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

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