

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2004

ANNANHILL NURSERY

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.2 To seek approval for the sale of greenhouses at Annanhill Nursery following closure of the nursery.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Annanhill Nursery was withdrawn from operational use on 30th March 2004. Changes in the market for bedding plant supplies mean that commercial producers now produce bedding plants, and deliver them to site, at very competitive prices. Council operated plant nursery facilities are becoming increasingly rare as more Councils have switched to buying in plants rather than growing or bringing on their own supplies.
- 2.2 Financial economies have resulted from these changes in operational practice and there has been no detrimental effect on the service delivered.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Annanhill Nursery site contains glasshouses and polytunnels that will have a financial value and as these facilities can be uplifted and relocated. It is proposed they are sold as soon as possible and before they are vandalised beyond repair.
- 3.2 Some minor site safety works are also required to protect the Council's interests. Once this work is carried out the future use of the site can be reviewed and proposals presented to this Committee for consideration.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A limited revenue receipt will be generated by the sale of the greenhouses. However, savings of approximately £36,000 per annum have been made as a result of the introduction of new practices and closure of the Nursery.

5 LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 As the Annanhill Nursery has been withdrawn from operational use, the glasshouses and polytunnels should now be sold.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) approve the sale of glasshouses and polytunnels from Annanhill Nursery;
- ii) remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to undertake the necessary site safety work at the nursery site; and
- iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/KH
6th August 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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