

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 22 JUNE 2006

EAST AYRSHIRE VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the grant application for 2006/7 from the Volunteer Centre and to make recommendations accordingly.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire (previously known as East Ayrshire Local Volunteer Development Agency) was established in October 2000 by a group of local organisations to promote and develop volunteering throughout East Ayrshire.

- 2.2 The overall aims and objectives include:

- the promotion and development of volunteering within East Ayrshire
- the recruitment and referral of volunteers to agencies
- the contribution to the development and delivery of support and training for volunteers
- the promotion of good practice in recruiting, training, placing and supporting volunteers and volunteer engagers.

- 2.3 In financial year 2005/6 the Council awarded a grant of £10,789 subject to other funding being secured. This was in addition to £11,000 through Community Regeneration Funding.

- 2.4 The report is presented to Council for consideration as the Policy and Resources Committee on 30th May 2006, could not consider this report as the Committee stood adjourned, there being insufficient Members to achieve a quorum.

3. GRANT REQUESTED 2006/7

- 3.1 The grant requested for 2006/7 is £11,000. The Volunteer Centre has a good history of attracting external funding. The undernoted funding sources have been secured in financial year 2006/7:

- Scottish Executive £69,660
- Millennium Volunteers £23,000
- Community Regeneration Funding £11,000

3.2 The Volunteer Centre continues to achieve its targets. The number of volunteers supported as at 31 March 2006 was 302. This was an increase from 280 at 31 March 2005. The number of young people volunteering increased from 90 to 185 in the same time period.

3.3 Based on the information from the grant application and Community Regeneration Grant Fund Project Monitoring Form it is recommended by the assessing Department that a grant of £11,000 is awarded.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Funding for the grant request can be met from within the resources available to the Policy and Resources Committee for grant funding.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Developing the capacity of volunteers and increasing the number of volunteers is a key strand in the Promoting Community Learning theme of the Community Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Council

- i) approve a grant of £11,000 for the East Ayrshire Volunteer Centre; and
- ii) otherwise note the contents of the report

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/SF
30 March 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Grant Application: Grant Reference: ED3228

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR