

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 7 JUNE 2007

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 2007/8 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 2006/7 the Council awarded a grant of £11,000 subject to other funding being secured. This was in addition to £11,000 through Community Regeneration Funding.

3. GRANT REQUESTED 2007/8

- 3.1 The grant requested for 2007/8 is £20,000. The Volunteer Centre has a good history of attracting external funding. The undernoted funding sources have been secured in financial year 2007/8:
- Scottish Executive £96,143
 - Millennium Big Lottery Fund £8,400
 - Oxfam/Scottish youth Parliament £2,000
- 3.2 The Volunteer Centre continues to support volunteering in East Ayrshire. The number of volunteers supported as at 31 March 2007 was 286. The number of young people volunteering is 120. Although the figures represent a slight reduction, the Centre has had a particular focus on supporting voluntary organisations to register with the Scottish Criminal Records Bureau. At a

strategic level, the Volunteer Centre is an active member of the Community Learning and Development Partnership.

- 3.3** Based on the information from the grant application it is recommended by the assessing Department that a grant of £11,275 is awarded.

4. FINANCIAL/ LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** There is sufficient funding to support the recommendation contained in this report.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil

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. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** The grant has been assessed in accordance with Council procedures.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** It is recommended that Council:

- i) approve a grant of £11,275 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/SR
30 May 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Grant Application: Grant Reference: ED3646

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR