

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 9 JANUARY 2007**

#### **WEST OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE**

##### **Report by Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the performance of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) in the financial year 2005/06, to report on the budgetary position in terms of the Code of Practice on Funding External Bodies, Following the Public Pound, and to agree the Council's allocation to the Service for financial year 2007/08.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The WoSAS was formed in 1996 to provide archaeological advice to participating Councils and enables Councils' to discharge their duties under NPPG5 (Archaeology and Planning) and to access a maintained Sites and Monuments record.
- 2.2 A report outlining funding proposals for the financial year 2006/07 was approved by Development Services Committee on 8 March, 2006.

#### **3. WORK ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 3.1 WoSAS have prepared an annual report detailing the activities of the service for 2005/06. Full copies of the annual report are available as a background paper.
- 3.2 The Appendix provides a summary of the service received by East Ayrshire Council during the year. For comparative purposes the figures for previous years are also included. The appendix highlights that in recent years a significant number of planning applications involving archaeological or potential archaeological issues have been assessed by WoSAS on behalf of the Council.
- 3.3 In addition to the contribution of WoSAS to the planning application process it has continued to maintain and keep up to date the Council's archaeological data base.

#### **4. FUNDING**

- 4.1 At present the Service is staffed by a Manager, 2 Archaeologists, 1 Sites and Monuments Records officer all on permanent contracts and an Archaeological Assistant on a temporary contract. The Archaeological Assistant post was created to assist the service in meeting its performance targets given the increasing workload. The service has no administrative support. Two additional staff (one full time curatorial archaeologist and one part time clerical assistant) have been employed on temporary contracts to enable the Service to provide archaeological advice to the M74 extension project with all costs being recouped through a contract with the appointed agent for the road contract (Glasgow City Council).

- 4.2 A surplus of £104,090.37 was carried forward at the start of the financial year 2005/06. Total income including the carry forward was £298,878.09. Expenditure in the year totalled £206,091.71. Accordingly as expenditure was greater than income the surplus to be carried forward for 2006/07 was reduced to approximately £92,786.38.
- 4.3 Previous reports to Committee noted that the West of Scotland Joint Archaeology Committee felt it prudent given that expenditure had exceeded income for a number of consecutive years that as far as possible the Service's income and expenditure in any one year should be brought into balance. However in order to reduce the very substantial annual increase to member Councils that this decision would require (although the increase would still remain above the rate of inflation) it was also agreed that the annual carry forward should be drawn upon and that the carry forward amount should be reduced to £15,000 by financial year 2009/10. In addition it was agreed to keep under review the temporary assistants post.
- 4.4 The planned three years financial programme to 2009/10 presented to the West of Scotland Joint Archaeology Committee in October 2006 includes extra expenditure (for employment of temporary staff) and extra income for years 2007/08 and 2008/09 generated by participation of the Service in the M74 extension project. As a result of the Service's involvement in the M74 project it should be possible to complete the financial restructuring of the Service's income and expenditure a year earlier than planned that is in 2008/09 rather than in 2009/10. Additionally it is anticipated that it should be possible to increase the sum held in reserve to c£31,000 and terminate the above inflation contributions required to bring income and expenditure into balance again one year earlier than anticipated. Increases may be further minimised if new members can be found or if new sources of income can be realised. Future reports will provide further details as appropriate. On this basis the financial allocation requested from East Ayrshire Council to WoSAS for financial year 2007/08 is £13,972, an increase of £760 over the requested 2006/07 contribution of £13,212.

## **5. PERSONNEL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **6. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 East Ayrshire's contribution will be £13,972 for 2007/08. This can be met from current budget allocations. The Committee will be advised of any future contribution requirements when these become available.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) Notes that WoSAS continues to provide a valued service;
- ii) Agrees a contribution be made to WoSAS of £13,972 for financial year 2007/08.

**James T Kane**

**Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services**

18 December 2006

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### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. **Annual Report of the West of Scotland Archaeology Services 2005/06.**
2. **Report to Development Services Committee, 8 March 2006, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.**

Anyone wishing to inspect the above papers please contact Karl Doroszenko on (01563) 576751.

Implementation Officer: Alan Neish

**APPENDIX**

**SUMMARY TABLE OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY WoSAS TO EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

East Ayrshire Council	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Total Planning Applications raising potential archaeology issues	56	68	85	82	106
• Refusal of application recommended	1	1	-	-	-
• Archaeological assessment /evaluation prior to determination	6	9	11	7	6
• Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	8	6	6	11	11
• Archaeological watching brief required	11	7	6	8	2
• Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument)	-	-	1	-	-
• Standings Buildings Survey condition			1	1	-
• Avoidance/protection within or to side of development	-	-	-	-	1
• Other condition (submission of mitigation strategy)	1	-	-	-	2
• No issue/action possible/ Necessary	27	42	51	44	72
• Not received	2	3	9	10	12
Other casework items	33	67	57	67	53