

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 29 JUNE 2004

WEST OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Report by 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 2002/03, and to report on the budgetary position in terms of the Code of Practice on Funding External Bodies, Following the Public Pound.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The WoSAS was formed in 1996 to provide archaeological advice to participating Councils in the former Strathclyde Regional Council area and to West of Scotland Water. It enables the member 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 from 2001/02 up to 2004/05 was approved by Development Services Committee on 18 December, 2001.

3. WORK ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3.1 WoSAS have prepared an annual report detailing the activities of the service for the financial year 2002/03. 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 in the financial year 2002/03. For comparative purposes the figures for 2000/01 and 2001/02 are also included. The appendix highlights that an increasing number of planning applications involving archaeological or potential archaeological issues are being submitted.
- 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 archaeological data base.

4 FUNDING

- 4.1 Approximately 75% of the running costs of WoSAS can be attributed to salaries. At present the Service is staffed by a manager, 2 archaeologists and 1 temporary Sites and Monuments Records officer. The service has no administrative support. A temporary post to July 2005 was created to assist with a backlog of work as well as seasonal work related to the Rural Stewardship Scheme.
- 4.2 Although a surplus of £73,601 was carried forward to financial year 2003/04 income within 2002/03 fell below expenditure. If present member contribution levels are maintained this surplus would be eroded each year as the total contributions fail to match the cost of the service.

- 4.3 The ongoing problem of income not matching expenditure can be solved by new members joining the service. During 2003 the manager of WoSAS was in discussions with West Lothian and East Dunbartonshire Councils about joining WoSAS. West Lothian Council have confirmed that they wish to join the service from 2004/05. East Dunbartonshire Council who were instrumental in setting up the service did not formally become members following local government reorganisation. They have however recently confirmed that they do not wish to take up membership in 2004/05.
- 4.4 In order to retain an adequate service, WoSAS require to make the temporary SMR officer post permanent, while at the same time stabilising income with expenditure. WoSAS are therefore requesting that Councils increase their annual contribution if the service is to be financially viable in the financial year 2005/06 and beyond but intend to minimise the increase by utilising the retained income over a 5 year period. On the basis that two Councils would be joining the service projections were prepared by the manager of WoSAS. However due to the decision by East Dunbartonshire Council to decline to join the service, detailed projections for individual Council contributions are not yet available. In addition Scottish Water has indicated that they wish to review their relationship with WoSAS but details are not yet available.
- 4.5 On the basis of the known surplus retained from 2002/03 the manager of WoSAS has requested that East Ayrshire Council contribute £11,944 in 2004/05, an increase of £500 over the 2003/04 contribution and £271 more than a straight 2% increase. However it is expected that contributions will require to rise over and above the previously agreed 2% increment in the future. Financial contributions for the years beyond 2004/05 will be confirmed by WoSAS at a Joint Committee meeting in October 2004 and a report will be prepared for consideration by this Committee in due course.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 East Ayrshire's contribution will be £11,944 for 2004/05. This can be met from current budget allocations. The Committee will be advised of future contribution requirements when these are available.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) note that WoSAS continues to provide a valued service
- ii) agree a contribution of £11,944 for 2004/05
- iii) note that a report on projected contributions will be prepared once details are available from WoSAS.

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services
2 June 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Annual Report of the West of Scotland Archaeology Services 2002/03.**
- 2. Report to Development Services Committee, 18 December 2001, 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	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Total Planning Applications raising potential archaeology issues	49	56	68
• Refusal of application recommended	-	1	1
• Archaeological assessment /evaluation prior to determination	5	6	9
• Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	4	8	6
• Archaeological watching brief required	7	11	7
• Other condition (submission of mitigation strategy)	-	1	-
• No issue/action possible/ Necessary	28	27	42
• Not received	-	2	3
Other casework items	51	33	67