

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 9 MARCH 2005**

#### **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 2003/04, 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 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 2003/04 was approved by Development Services Committee on 29 June, 2004.

### **3. WORK ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 3.1 WoSAS have prepared an annual report detailing the activities of the service for 2003/04. 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. For comparative purposes the figures for previous years 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'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 and a temporary (to October 2006) Archaeological Assistant. The Archaeological Assistant was appointed to assist the service in meeting its performance targets given the increasing workload. The service has no administrative support.

- 4.2 A surplus of £115,152 was carried forward at the start of the financial year 2004/05 however it is anticipated that income within the current financial year will not match expenditure and the surplus to be carried forward for 2005/06 will be reduced to approximately £81,000.
- 4.3 The problem of income not matching expenditure can be solved in part by new members joining the service. During 2003/04 the Manager of WoSAS was in discussions with West Lothian and East Dunbartonshire Councils about joining WoSAS. West Lothian Council became full members from the start of financial year 2004/05 although income was received from the Council in 2003/04 to enable preparatory work to be completed. East Dunbartonshire Council, who were instrumental in setting up the service, confirmed during 2003/04 that they do not wish to take up membership at the present time. However, in addition to East Dunbartonshire Council not joining Scottish Water indicated that they wanted to terminate their agreement with WoSAS effective from the start of financial year 2004/05.
- 4.4 Given these circumstances the Manager of WoSAS at the last joint committee meeting tabled a report projecting future income with expenditure on the basis of current commitments only and taking account of the previously agreed position that the surplus to be carried forward should be reduced to a reasonable amount to be held in reserve and that income should be brought in line to match expenditure.
- 4.5 In order to achieve the above financial objectives the manager of WoSAS has requested that East Ayrshire Council contribute £12,494 in 2005/06, an increase of £550 over the 2004/05 contribution or 4.6%. However it is expected that contributions will require to be increased by 5.75% each year until 2009/10 to bring income in line with expenditure. Increases may be minimised if new members can be found or if new sources of income can be realised. Future reports will provide further details as appropriate.

## **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 £12,494 for 2005/06. 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) notes that WoSAS continues to provide a valued service;
- ii) agrees a contribution of £12,494 for 2005/06; and
- iii) notes that a report on projected contributions for future years will be prepared once details are available from WoSAS.

**James Lavery**

**Executive Director of Development and Property Services**

25 February 2005 (KD/SA)

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### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. **Annual Report of the West of Scotland Archaeology Services 2003/04.**
2. **Report to Development Services Committee, 29 June 2004, 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	2003/04
Total Planning Applications raising potential archaeology issues	49	56	68	85
• Refusal of application recommended	-	1	1	-
• Archaeological assessment /evaluation prior to determination	5	6	9	11
• Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	4	8	6	6
• Archaeological watching brief required	7	11	7	6
• Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument)				1
• Standings Buildings Survey condition				1
• Other condition (submission of mitigation strategy)	-	1	-	-
• No issue/action possible/ Necessary	28	27	42	51
• Not received	-	2	3	9
Other casework items	51	33	67	57