

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 8 MARCH 2006**

#### **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 2004/05, 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 2005/06 was approved by Development Services Committee on 9 March, 2005.

### **3. WORK ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 3.1 WoSAS have prepared an annual report detailing the activities of the service for 2004/05. 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 in recent years an increasing number of planning applications involving archaeological or potential archaeological issues have been 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 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.

- 4.2 A surplus of £115,152 was carried forward at the start of the financial year 2004/05 and total income was £184,314. Expenditure in the year totalled £195,376. Accordingly as expenditure was greater than income the surplus to be carried forward for 2005/06 was reduced to approximately £104,090.
- 4.3 The West of Scotland Joint Archaeology Committee felt it was prudent that as far as possible the Service's income and expenditure in any one year should be brought into balance. In order to minimise the annual increase to member Councils that this decision would require it has been agreed that the annual surplus should be drawn down to help meet annual running costs and that the surplus 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 To meet these financial requirements the manager of WoSAS at the last joint committee meeting tabled a report projecting future income with expenditure to financial year 2009/10 and has requested that East Ayrshire Council contribute £13,212 in financial year 2006/07, an increase of £718 over the 2005/06 contribution or 5.75%. The projected annual surplus at the end of financial year 2006/07 is estimated to be approximately £69,000. However as previously intimated to committee 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 even after contributions from the annual surplus is taken into account . 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/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 £13,212 for 2006/067. 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 £13,212 for 2006/07; 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**

23 February 2006 (KD/SA)

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#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. **Annual Report of the West of Scotland Archaeology Services 2004/05.**
2. **Report to Development Services Committee, 9 March 2005, 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
Total Planning Applications raising potential archaeology issues	56	68	85	82
• Refusal of application recommended	1	1	-	-
• Archaeological assessment /evaluation prior to determination	6	9	11	7
• Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	8	6	6	11
• Archaeological watching brief required	11	7	6	8
• Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument)			1	
• Standings Buildings Survey condition			1	1
• Other condition (submission of mitigation strategy)	1	-	-	-
• No issue/action possible/ Necessary	27	42	51	44
• Not received	2	3	9	10
Other casework items	33	67	57	67