

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 7 NOVEMBER 2006**

#### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME – MAJOR PROJECTS**

##### **Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Education Committee of progress in four major capital projects and seek approval for funding proposals.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** At its meeting of 22 March 2005 Education Committee agreed the proposed development of a new community facility at Netherthird and agreed to a budgeted spend of £200,000 in 2005/06. This sum was enhanced by a further £100,000 at the Committee of 21 March 2006.
- 2.2** Following Scottish Executive changes to the class sizes of English and Maths classes in s1 and s2 to a maximum of 20 pupils an exercise was undertaken to ascertain the impact on all secondary schools. The results of this exercise indicated that only Stewarton Academy required to be extended to accommodate this change.
- 2.3** Education Committee has previously agreed to the creation of two Youth Strategy bases for s1/2 pupils, located at Cumnock and Kilmarnock Academies. There is now an identified need to create a base for pupils in s3 and s4.

### **3. PROJECT UPDATES**

#### **3.1 Netherthird Community Facility**

Previous reports to Education Committee advised on the consultation process with local stakeholders. The outcome of these discussions have now been incorporated into the final detailed designs for the proposed building. Total funding of £300,000 has been approved by Committee as detailed in paragraph 2.2 (above).

Technical Services have estimated the total costs of the project to be £1.5 million, including demolition costs. As stated in paragraph 3.1 above the actual cost will only be confirmed when tender prices are obtained. It is estimated that the spend profile will see £400,000 spent in 2007/08 with the remainder in 2008/09. Committee are therefore asked to approve this financial commitment from its capital programme allocations of the next two financial years.

### 3.2 Stewarton Academy Extension

The impact of reducing class sizes in s1 and s2 English and Maths classes has resulted in the need to construct a 3 classroom extension at Stewarton Academy. This extension has indicatively been estimated to cost £700,000.

Following discussion with school staff the extension will comprise of three rooms which will be divided by moveable partitions. This will create much needed flexibility in the school and will allow a combination of room sizes to match curricular needs. Technical Services are now preparing detailed plans, which will then be submitted for planning approval.

Education Committee are asked to approve the allocation of £700,000 from its 2007/08 capital programme for this project.

### 3.3 Youth Strategy s3 and s4 Base

The need to create a base for s3/4 pupils has been identified by officers working in this area. It is believed that these pupils would be best served by removing them from a mainstream school setting and accordingly extensive property searches have been undertaken. This exercise has indicated that the former Recreation Centre at Altonhill, Kilmarnock would be the preferred location and Committee are asked to approve that this building be included within the Departmental property portfolio.

Indicative costs of £180,000 have been received from Technical Services, however detailed plans now need to be prepared. Revenue funding of £80,000 has been secured with a proposal that the balance comes from the 2007/08 capital programme allocation.

## 4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The financial implications if these projects are summarised below :-

<b>Project</b>	<b>07/08 Capital Requirements</b>	<b>08/09 Capital Requirements</b>
Netherthird Community Facility	£100,000	£1,100,000
Stewarton Academy Extension	£700,000	Nil
Altonhill Youth Strategy Base	£100,000	Nil

## **5. COMMUNITY PLANING IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** This report will assist the Council in meeting the following aspects of the Community Plan :-

- Improving opportunities;
- Improving community learning; and
- Improving the environment.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) Agree to progress the proposed projects identified in section 3 of this report;
- (ii) Approve the funding proposals as detailed in section 4;
- (iii) Remit the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to submit a report to the Policy and Resources Committee transferring the Altonhill Community Centre to the Education Property Portfolio; and
- (iii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

EC/JBS  
18 October 2006

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Education Committee – 22 March 2005 (Agenda Item 20)  
Education Committee - 21 March 2006 (Agenda Item 17a)

Members wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support, Tel : (01563) 576090 or Margaret Meechan, Property Development Manager, Tel : (01563) 576270.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : EUAN COUPERWHITE**