

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 14 SEPTEMBER 2004

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR P.E. AND SPORT - UPDATE

Report by the Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Education Committee of progress in the development of bids for improvements to schools' P.E. facilities, and to seek approval for the submission of the first phase of bids to the Big Lottery Fund, previously the New Opportunities Fund.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting of 17 September 2002, the Education Committee agreed to the submission of a bid of £1,265,000 to the New Opportunities Fund for the development of sporting facilities at schools throughout the Council.
- 2.2 This submission resulted from a member/officer working group's recommendations after a detailed appraisal of existing facilities, taking into account school and community use and socio economic factors.
- 2.3 The proposal submitted has been subject to considerable discussion and review with representatives of the New Opportunities Fund and SportScotland.

3. PROGRESS UPDATE

- 3.1 An officer group, involving Education Services, Leisure Services, and Technical Services have been developing the content of stage 2 bids, in preparation for submission to the Fund.
- 3.2 The Lottery Fund have now advised that the first phase of stage two bids should be submitted for consideration. The first phase of projects to be included in this round are situated at:
- Stewarton Academy;
 - Cumnock Academy;
 - Drongan Primary; and
 - Outdoor Activities Centre.
- 3.3 The rationale for these submissions has been developed in conjunction with guidance from the Fund and sportscotland. The principal criteria which have been used when making these decisions are :-
- these communities have a limited availability of sporting facilities, particularly artificial surfaces. The lack of sporting facilities has been

highlighted to the Council in the Sportscotland Facilities Planning model which was presented to Community Services Committee previously;

- Drongan and Cumnock are areas which suffer from socio economic deprivation;
- the Fund and sportscotland have stressed the importance of creating new facilities in communities across the Council area. This proposal allows for developments in the north and south of East Ayrshire.

3.4 This submission will encompass the first elements of the stage 2 bids from the Council, as the Fund guidelines will not permit all of the Council's intended projects to proceed at one time. This allows a phased implementation so that spending can be closely monitored, as the grant award is cash limited to the £1,265 million previously agreed.

3.5 After final costs of this submission have been finalised the next round of bids will be submitted to the Fund. Education Committee should note that current cost plans now reflect an accurate estimate for both facilities and adaptations to changing areas. These revised costs show a considerable increase on those previously submitted and this may impact on the ability to deliver all the previously agreed projects within the Fund allocation. It may, however, be possible to channel any surplus income from these projects into creating any proposed facilities which cannot be delivered through Lottery funding.

4. FINANCIAL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) agree to first phase of projects detailed in section 3.2 to be submitted to the Big Lottery Fund;
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

EC/JBS
23 August 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Education Committee : 17 September 2002 – New Opportunities for PE and Sport Initiative

Any member wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support at (01563) 576090.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : EUAN COUPERWHITE