

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE
MATCH-FUND BUDGET

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend to the Emergency Powers Committee an award from the financial year 2006/2007 Match-Fund budget in respect of the following application for support:
- o Installation of a Skate Board Park for young people at Muirkirk.

2. BACKGROUND

Muirkirk Enterprise Group

- 2.1 The Muirkirk Enterprise Group was set up with the primary aim of promoting the rural regeneration of the village of Muirkirk. They have successfully delivered a number of projects in the village. The idea of a Skate Board Park for the village was the result of a petition handed into the Group by parents in the area, which had been signed by over 120 local residents and young people.
- 2.2 The grant support will form part of a cocktail of external funding to deliver the capital elements of the project including, installation, landscaping, purchase of equipment, signage and technical consultancy.
- 2.3 Ongoing maintenance of the facility will be minimal, with equipment being covered by manufacturer's guarantee. Ongoing safety inspections will be carried out and recorded and necessary maintenance will be organised/ undertaken by volunteers from the Group, who will also carry out additional fundraising activity if required. £5 million Public Liability Insurance is in place.
- 2.4 This project has been developed in line with East Ayrshire's Community Planning Priorities and will contribute to providing diversionary activities for the purpose of tackling anti-social behaviour and improving access to sport and leisure facilities. Staff from Technical Services staff have provided initial design and costings and will be involved in Project Management of the installation.
- 2.5 It is anticipated that initially over 40 young people will regularly use the new facility, with potential for wider access from surrounding areas in future years.
- 2.6 Total cost of the project was originally estimated at £78,000, and the group had secured a cocktail of external funding to this value. However, during the timescale required to secure external funding, Health & Safety regulations have changed, increasing the cost of the project to £84,778 and a match fund contribution of £6658 is sought which will secure the leverage of an already approved £77,120. Full details of the funding package are given in section 3.1.

3. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 In order that the project can proceed, the total funding package required is £84,778. The Group have secured £25,000 from the Big Lottery Fund; £21,120 from the Minerals Trust and £31,000 from the Coalfield Regeneration Trust, with a contribution of £1000 being met by existing funds held by the Group. These funds can only be drawn down if the total project costs can be fully met and monies spent before the end of the year.
- 3.2 The Assistant Operations Manager, Outdoor Amenities has carried out an assessment of the match fund application and recommends to Committee a match fund award of £6658 representing 8% of overall project costs.

4. SUSTAINABILITY

- 4.1 A Risk assessment has been carried out against the project as part of the Match-Fund assessment process which has established a satisfactory level of sustainability for the projects.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The award detailed in Section 3, of £6658, can be fully met from the 2006/2007 Match-Fund budget. If approved, the balance remaining to be allocated is £9752.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no policy/legal implications arising from this report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to:
- i) approve an award of £6658 to Muirkirk Enterprise Group
 - ii) otherwise, note the content of this report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Support
10th August 2006

Members wishing further information should contact Lesley Arnott, External Funding and Sustainability Officer, Tel 01563 576573.