

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE – 26 JANUARY 2005

EAST AYRSHIRE CARE AND REPAIR PROJECT

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the award of the contract for the expansion of the pilot Care and Repair scheme in Dalmellington to now cover the whole of East Ayrshire.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Housing Committee on 12th September 2001 approved the establishment of a Steering Group to take forward a pilot care and repair project for East Ayrshire.
- 2.2 The Pilot Project Steering Group comprised four Elected Members, the National Coordinator for the Care and Repair Forum, representatives from the Elderly Forum, the Disability Forum, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the members of the Working Group.
- 2.3 A Working Group has been established, and consists of officers from the Departments of Neighbourhood Services, Educational and Social Services, East Ayrshire Local Health Care Cooperative and Communities Scotland. It produces information and analysis of the type of need and services required in East Ayrshire.
- 2.4 The Housing Committee on 11th September 2002 agreed the need to establish the pilot project in Dalmellington.

3. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 The pilot Care and Repair project was due for completion in September 2004. Following a report to members on the successful outcomes from the pilot scheme, the Housing Committee on 8th September 2004 agreed that the project be rolled out across the whole of East Ayrshire.
- 3.2 Expressions of interest were invited to provide a Care and Repair service across the whole of East Ayrshire. Four parties noted an interest in the project.

4. INVITATION TO TENDER

- 4.1 Invitations to tender were issued to the four interested parties for the provision of a Care and Repair service, with one tender being returned on 11th September 2004 by Shire Housing Association.

- 4.2 The evaluation panel comprised a representative from the Elderly Forum, and officers from Communities Scotland, Educational and Social Services and Neighbourhood Services.
- 4.3 Following the tender evaluation process, the contract for the development of a Care and Repair service across East Ayrshire, to include an Approved Contractor List and Small Repair Service, has been awarded to Shire Housing Association.

5. PRIORITISATION

- 5.1 Following a meeting of the Steering Group on 20 December 2004, it was agreed that in terms of applying a prioritisation criteria to the East Ayrshire wide project, all applicants to the Care and Repair Service and the Small Repair Service will be treated on a first come basis, and the project will be launched across the authority area early in the New Year, to ensure equality of access to the scheme.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Capital and Revenue Funding

- 6.1.1 As reported to the Housing Committee on 17th March 2004, Private Sector Housing Grant (PSHG) has been awarded in the sum of £150,000 both for 2004/ 2005 and 2005/ 2006, for the provision of Care and Repair services.
- 6.1.2 Funding in the sum of £150,000 plus £10,000 from Other Sources to total £160,000 is projected to be spent by the end of financial year 2004/ 2005, and a further £150,000 plus £5,000 from Other Sources to total £155,000 is due to be spent by the end of financial year 2005/ 2006.
- 6.1.3 Of these sums, revenue funding amounting to £37,750 is projected to be spent by the end of financial year 2004/ 2005, with a further £91,901 due to be spent by the end of financial year 2005/ 2006.
- 6.1.4 These sums allow for the recruitment of an additional member of staff by the project, to develop the Small Repairs service across the authority area.

7. LEGAL AUTHORITY/ IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Shire Housing Association, as managing organisation, will be the corporate body with employment, legal and financial responsibility for the full project.
- 7.2 An agreement will be entered into between the managing organisation for the full project and East Ayrshire Council, regulating the terms and conditions of funding and all other aspects of the project. It is proposed that with the

ending of the pilot phase and the establishment of the East Ayrshire wide project, the Steering Group be replaced by an inter agency officer group, led by Housing, which would report progress to the Housing Committee on a regular basis.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 With a focus on a co-ordinated approach to meeting community care needs, Care and Repair assists in achieving Community Care, Health and Housing policy objectives, as reported in the Scottish Executive document 'Working Together on Care and Repair A Strategic View', dated 2001.
- 8.2 The expansion of the Care and Repair project will promote the aims of care in the community and respond to house condition issues within the private sector for vulnerable clients, providing cost effective solutions, and supporting the Council's aims and objectives as set out in the East Ayrshire Community Plan and the Local Housing Strategy.

9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 The expansion of the Care and Repair project will provide cost-effective services, helping to sustain those people at greatest risk of social exclusion to live independently in better housing within the community, thereby avoiding the need for more institutional forms of care.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Committee are recommended to:
- (i) note the award of this contract to provide a Care and Repair Service across East Ayrshire to Shire Housing Association;
 - (ii) note that a report on progress over the first 6 months of the project will be brought to a future Committee meeting for consideration;
 - (iii) agree the establishment of a inter agency officer Steering Group as outlined in Paragraph 7.2; and
 - (iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

CMCA/DB/LA

14 December 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive Working Together on Care and Repair A Strategic View, 2001.
2. Communities Scotland Care & Repair A Good Practice Guide, March 2002.
3. Scottish Executive Care and Repair Guidance and Standards, August 2004.
4. Tender Documents for the Care and Repair Service Contract PS/04/27.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576617 and ask for Joseph Cassidy, Policy Manager.

Implementation officer –chris.mcaleavey@east-ayrshire.gov.uk