

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 7 SEPTEMBER 2005

APSE PARKS, OPEN SPACES & HORTICULTURAL SEMINAR “ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTS – INCLUSIVE PLAY”

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of an invitation for the Council to be represented at the two day conference on Inclusive Play and Active Environments which was held in Glasgow on 18th and 19th August 2005, and to ask the Committee to note that due to the timescales involved, the Chief Executive in consultation with the chair, approved the attendance of Councillor O'Neill under delegated powers.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 Active Environments play a critical role in supporting healthy communities across Scotland and this seminar is aimed at exploring this role.
- 2.2 From playgrounds to skate parks, mountain biking to walking, this unique seminar was the first of its kind in Scotland. Its focus was to bring together a range of diverse expertise from across sectors to jointly address the future development of these vitally important resources.
- 2.3 Integrated within the internationally renowned “Glasgow Show” which attracts over 40,000 visitors, the seminar addressed issues surrounding the design, placement and accessibility of varied community resources to support healthier neighbourhoods. The aim was to identify and promote the latest best practice in the development of such resources from traditional parks and open spaces to the latest work in playground design and trends in skate parks and mountain biking.
- 2.4 APSE and Glasgow City Council organised this event to address the following issues:-
- Is design and delivery matching communities' needs and expectations?
 - Can we do better?
 - How do we maximise the role of partners in creating healthier environments?
 - How do we generate and maintain sustainable interest and activity?

The differing views of stakeholders will provide for an invaluable overview of the issues at hand and the challenges ahead.

2.5 In view of the summer recess, attendance at the Conference was considered by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. The attendance of Councillor O'Neill was approved under delegated powers.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The delegate fee for the conference was £135 plus VAT per delegate. There will be additional costs for travel to and from the event.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 An invitation was received for the Council to be represented at the two day Conference "Inclusive Play and Active Environments" to be held in Glasgow on 18th and 19th August 2005.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Following approval by the Chief Executive, Councillor O'Neill attended the two day conference on "Active Environments – Inclusive Play" in Glasgow on 18th and 19th August 2005 and was accompanied by the Outdoor Amenities Manager. The sub-committee are requested to note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JS

22nd August 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Email and Conference programme to Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services dated 1st July 2005.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers above should telephone 01563 576023 and ask to speak to William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

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