

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**MEMBER SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE
7th SEPTEMBER, 2005**

**COALFIELD COMMUNITIES CAMPAIGN – NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Committee for East Ayrshire Council to host a National Executive Committee Meeting of the Coalfield Communities Campaign on 28th April 2006.

2. BACKGROUND TO COALFIELD COMMUNITIES CAMPAIGN

- 2.1 The Coalfield Communities Campaign was established in 1985 and is an all-party group representing some 80 local authorities in the present and former coalmining areas in England, Scotland and Wales.

It campaigns for the social, economic and environmental regeneration of coalfield areas, working closely with the government and its agencies.

- 2.2 East Ayrshire Council is a strong supporter of the CCC at both regional and national level. Members and officers have regularly attended regional and national meetings and have actively contributed to the lobbying activities of the campaign over the years. Recently this has included lobbying of the UK Government and European Commission on issues around Structural Funds and State Aids, the preparation of briefing notes in Scotland on issues such as multiple deprivation, educational attainment and health and equalities within the Scottish Coalfield and participation at the meetings of the informal All-Party MSP Group at the Scottish Parliament.

- 2.3 The Coalfield Communities Campaign holds regular Regional Meetings, Ordinary General Meetings and National Executive Committee Meetings throughout the year. These meetings are hosted by Member Authorities on a rotational basis. Attendance at Ordinary General Meetings and National Executive Committee Meetings is normally between 50 and 60 persons in total with most attendees staying overnight in or near the host town prior to the meeting. Traditionally the host authority provides coffee/tea and biscuits prior to the meeting and a buffet lunch afterwards.

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed that East Ayrshire Council host the meeting of the National Executive Committee scheduled for 28th April 2006. The Visitor Centre/Auditorium at the Dean Castle Country Park is available on that date and would provide an excellent venue.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is estimated that the total cost of hosting the meeting including the hire of the venue, coffee/tea and scones on arrival and a hot buffet lunch based on 60 attendees would cost a maximum £775 assuming that hire and catering charges remain constant.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no immediate legal implications from the recommendations contained in this report.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:-
- (1) Agree that East Ayrshire Council hosts the CCC National Executive Committee meeting to be held on 28th April, 2006 and to approve a budget of a maximum of £775 based on current prices.
 - (2) To remit to the Executive Director of Development and Property Services to finalise arrangements with the CCC National Secretariat

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services
31 August 2005

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Any person wishing to discuss this report should contact David Hewet on 01563 554608

Implementation Officer – David Hewet