

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**MEMBER SERVICES & CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE**

**7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2005**

**SCOTTISH RURAL SERVICES CONFERENCE 2005**

**Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Sub-Committee of the Scottish Rural Services Conference 2005 to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2005.

**2. CONFERENCE DETAILS**

- 2.1 The theme of the conference is Funding and Support for Rural Services. The venue is Thainstone House Hotel, Inverurie. The conference is organised by the Rural Communities Team of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and is supported by the Scottish Executive and Scottish Enterprise.

- 2.2 On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September there is a choice of full day and half day study tours of a range of community projects across Aberdeenshire. Projects include community transport, renewables, IT, community halls, woodland projects, local tourism initiatives, social enterprises and community support working. In the evening there is a reception hosted by Aberdeenshire Council.

- 2.4 The main Conference session will be held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Key speakers include:-

Ross Finnie MSP - Minister for Environment and Rural Development.

Dr Frank Rennie – Lews Castle College, UHI Millenium Institute

Richard Wakeford – Scottish Executive

David Stewart – Assistant Director for Rural Affairs, SCVO

In addition there will be workshop sessions and a number of short presentations from community groups.

**3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 This will be the fifth Scottish Rural Services Conference and continues the theme of developing services in rural areas.

- 3.2 The conference is relevant to everyone involved in the planning and delivery of services to rural communities and will look at a wide range of funding and support issues.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The cost of the annual conference is £195.00 for attendance on both the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September, and £145.00 for attendance on 27<sup>th</sup> September only. These prices are exclusive of the cost of accommodation.

#### **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 consider attendance to the Scottish Rural Services Conference 2005.

**James Lavery**  
**Executive Director of Development & Property Services**  
DAH/PM/1/6/05

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Advance notice of Scottish Rural Services Conference 2005.
2. Scottish Rural Services Conference 2005 booking form and programme.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above or discuss this Report, should contact David Hewet on 01563 554608

**Implementation Officer – David Hewet**