

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE: 12 JANUARY 2006

SHOPMOBILITY UPDATE

Joint report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support and Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the Council's intention to establish a Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock Town Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The establishment of a Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock Town Centre was identified as a priority for 2004 within the Community Plan's Eliminating Poverty Thematic Action Plan 2003-2007.
- 2.2 To progress this, a community-based working group was established in 2003 and funding bids were submitted to a range of external sources.
- 2.3 The submitted bids were unsuccessful and as a result of this, the project was not progressed at that time and the working group folded. The commitment to establish a Shopmobility Scheme remained a priority for Elected Members and at the request of the Chair of Social Inclusion, a short-term Officers' Working Group, chaired by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support, was established in early 2005 to drive forward this initiative. The Group comprised Officers from the Departments of Development and Property Services (Architects, Roads & Transportation, and Working for Families), Educational and Social Services (Social Work) and Corporate Support (Community Planning & Partnership Unit).

3. UPDATE

- 3.1 The Council's Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting of 15 November 2005, agreed to:
- establish a Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock Town Centre; preferred location Kilmarnock Bus Station;
 - devolve management responsibility for the Scheme to a representative community group or voluntary organisation with appropriate technical and professional support provided by the Department of Development & Property Services; discussions are currently underway with the North Federation of Community Groups; and
 - provide a financial package, as detailed below.

3.2 The overall costs of establishing a Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock Town Centre, located within the Bus Station, are as follows:-

Capital/Revenue	£	Comments
Capital	45,500	Includes refurbishment of premises and purchase of 9 mobility scooters
Revenue	40,000	Includes cost for 1 member of staff and office running costs
Total	£85,500	

3.3 Part-year revenue costs for 2005/06 are estimated at £18,000, giving an overall financial requirement for 2005/06 of £63,500 (capital and revenue).

3.4 The Council agreed that capital and revenue costs be met as follows:

- Capital costs to be met from uncommitted contingency within the Council's 2005/06 Capital Programme;
- Part-year revenue costs in 2005/06 and 2006/07 to be met from Council's revenue balances;
- Ongoing revenue costs from 2007/08 onwards to be met from the Department of Development and Property Services' revenue budget.

3.5 The above financial package will provide the project with a solid platform in order to develop over future years.

3.6 The Department of Development and Property Services will assume lead responsibility for establishing the Shopmobility Scheme within Kilmarnock Town Centre.

3.7 Once established the opportunity to expand the Scheme to Cumnock Town Centre will be explored.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The costings identified at section 3.2, have been secured and future costs can be met from future income streams within the Department of Development & Property Services.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposal to establish a Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock Town Centre is listed as a priority action within the Community Plan's Eliminating Poverty Action Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Local Committee is asked to:

- i) note the proposals to establish a Shopmobility Scheme within Kilmarnock Town Centre; and
- ii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services
14 December 2005

BACKGROUND PAPERS

East Ayrshire Community Plan – Eliminating Poverty Action Plan 2003-2007

Members wishing further information on this report should contact Sandra Marshall, Project Co-ordinator, Development and Property Services, on 01563 543135.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

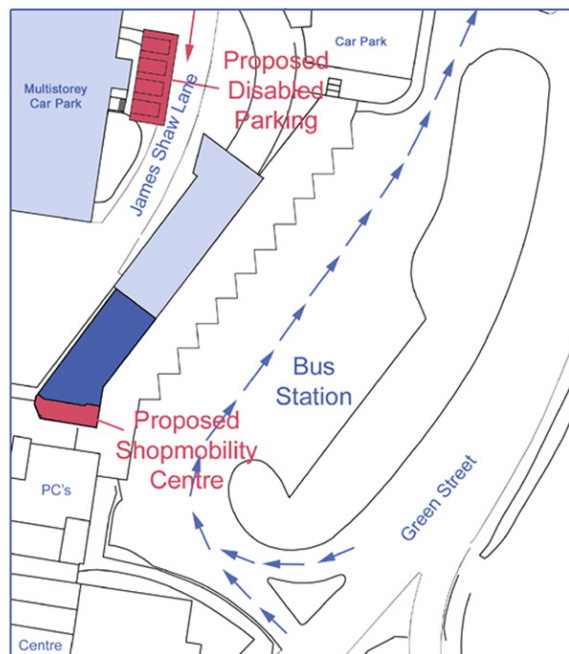
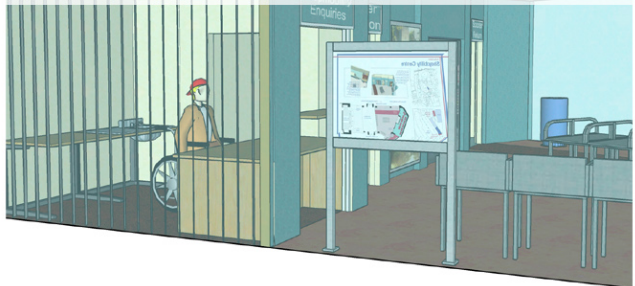
Executive Director of Development and Property Services

Kilmarnock Bus Station

Shopmobility Centre

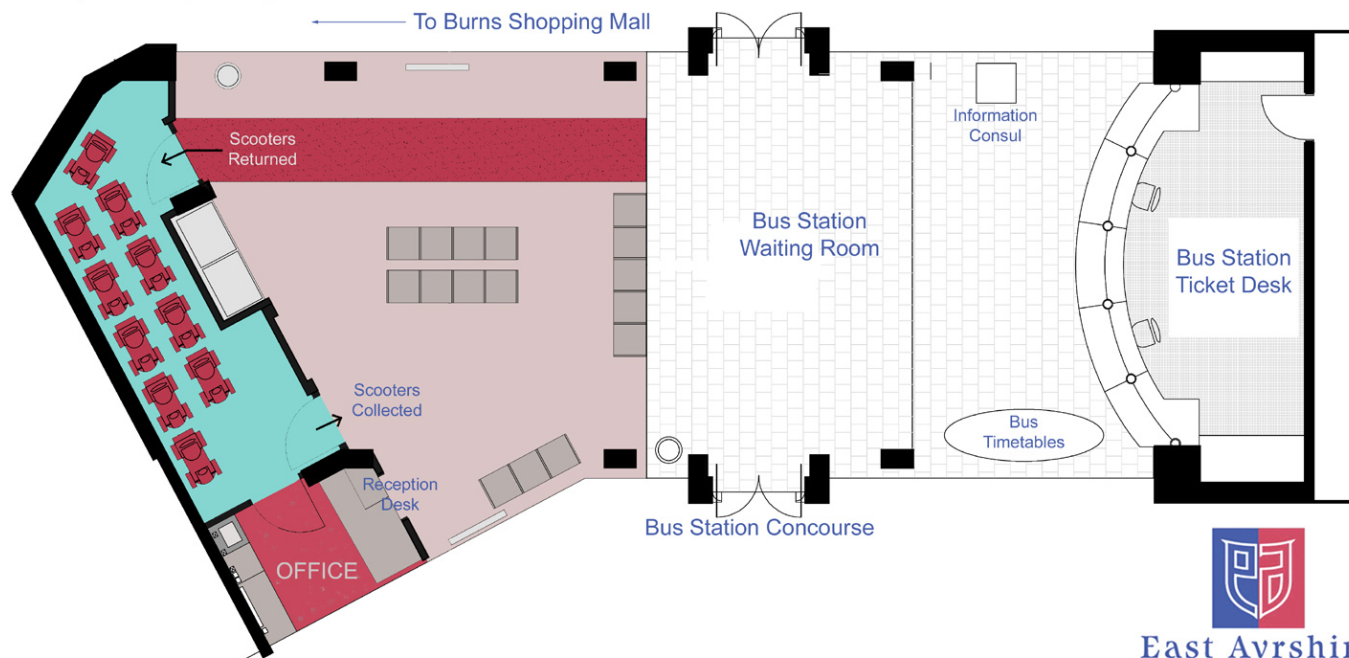


If you are normally unable to reach the Town Centre due to mobility difficulties why not use **Kilmarnock Shopmobility Service** when you visit Kilmarnock. Whether you arrive by car, bus or taxi the Kilmarnock Shopmobility Centre is conveniently located in the Bus Station waiting room, James Shaw Lane, Kilmarnock.



Proposed Shopmobility Centre

There is a taxi rank, disabled parking and disabled toilet facilities outside the centre. The electric mobility scooters can be borrowed by callers to the office for use in the Burns Mall and throughout the Town Centre area. An attendant will access and advise you on the use of the scooter. Scooters can be reserved in advance by telephoning the office at tel:



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