

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 27 OCTOBER 2005

DONATED PARK BENCHES

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Committee on a proposal by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to accept responsibility for benches donated by the public.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report arose from a request from the Local Committee at the last meeting, that the Council consider the feasibility of providing public benches through public subscription.
- 2.2 The Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services was contacted and has looked at current practice and can offer the undernoted solution.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Council will accept responsibility for benches donated by the public subject to the following conditions:-

- Any bench must be all metal and be an anti-vandal design;
- Donated benches will only be used to replace existing benches which have become irreparable;
- The location for any donated bench will be determined by the Council in consultation with the person(s) making the donation;
- The Council cannot undertake to continually repair any bench and benches will be removed if it is not cost effective to carry out repairs or there is insufficient budget available;
- The Council cannot undertake to replace any donated bench that is vandalised or otherwise damaged beyond repair;
- Routine maintenance and inspection will be carried out in line with the Council's accepted procedures.

- 3.2 These conditions are necessary because there are limited resources available to maintain park benches and the cost of repair and maintenance can quickly exceed the actual cost of the new bench.

- 3.3 The Council would not wish to mislead or disappoint any donor by failing to meet their expectations, therefore, these conditions must be understood and accepted by any donor and must be recognised in a written agreement.

4. FINANCIAL/LLEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - NIL

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

CB/LF
4 October 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Memorandum received from Head of Leisure outlining proposal.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on Tel No (01563) 576135. Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Christine Baillie, Administration Officer on Tel No (01563) 576129.

Implementation Officer: Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer