

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 1 APRIL 2004

GRANT APPLICATION - ETHNIC MINORITY LAW CENTRE (EMLC)

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To ask Members of the Policy & Resources Committee to consider a request for funding from the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Ethnic Minorities Law Centre was established in 1991 to address the unmet legal needs of ethnic minority communities in certain parts of Glasgow. In 1997 the Centre received funding from the Scottish Executive Ethnic Minorities Grant Scheme to extend its services into new areas both within and outwith Glasgow. It has the overall aim of promoting racial equality through the provision of culturally sensitive legal advice, information and representation on a wide variety of issues, including racial discrimination, welfare rights, employment law, family law, housing law, debt advice and immigration.
- 2.2** The grant funding to the Ethnic Minority Law Centre in previous years has been a contribution towards the outreach service. The outreach service covers ten other areas along with East Ayrshire. The funding for this service from the Community Fund terminated on 31 March 2004.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1** The grant funding sought for this financial year is £8,000 which is the proposed East Ayrshire contribution to enable the outreach service to continue, based on current usage from residents in East Ayrshire. There are currently 20 ongoing cases from this area. The case load has increased annually and a gradual and consistent pattern of growth has developed. It would appear that six new clients have requested support in 2004.

The Law centre continues to be an active member of the Ethnic Minority Forum in East Ayrshire and more recently did a presentation to the newly formed Ayrshire Race Equality Partnership. The Partnership recognised that the Law Centre was an appropriate body to support its work and provide mediation services to the Ayrshire Community.

To meet the requirements of the Race Relation (Amendment) Act 2000 there is a requirement to ensure access to external mediation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** In financial year 2003/04 Policy and Resources Committee approved a grant of £4,576 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre. It is recommended that Committee approve a grant award of £6,000 for financial year 2004/5 to reflect the requirements of the Ethnic Minority Law Centre and its ongoing and increasing commitment to delivering services for the residents of East Ayrshire.

5. POLICY/LEGAL ISSUES

- 5.1** Supporting the grant application promotes the Councils commitment to equal opportunities and its requirements as a public body under the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is recommended that Members of the Policy & Resources Committee:
- (i) agree a grant of £6,000 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre for financial year 2004/2005 subject to funding from other appropriate local authorities; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/JW
10 March 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Grant Application 2004/5

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR