

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 12 APRIL 2005

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 seven 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 23 ongoing cases from this area. The case load has increased annually and a gradual and consistent pattern of growth has developed.
- 3.2** The Law Centre continues to be an active member of the Ethnic Minority Forum in East Ayrshire.
- 3.3** To meet the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 there is a requirement to ensure access to external mediation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** In financial year 2004/5 Policy and Resources Committee approved a grant of £6,000 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre. It is recommended that Committee approve a grant award of £6,180 for financial year 2005/6 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. This includes an inflationary uplift.

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 £6,180 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre for financial year 2005/6 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
21 March 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Grant Application 2005/6: ED2961

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR