

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

12th April 2005

MODERNISING GOVERNMENT FUND (3rd ROUND)

Report by Depute Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Support.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise Committee on the outcome of the Council's bids for funding under the 3rd Round of the Scottish Executive's Modernising Government Fund (MGF3), and to seek Committee approval to accept a Scottish Executive Offer of Award.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** MGF has been established by the Scottish Executive to help advance ICT based projects which were innovative and improved the delivery of public services. The Fund is intended to support pilot projects that can be replicated throughout Scotland, to take forward the 21st Century Government objectives of seamless public service delivery.
- 2.2** For approved projects, MGF3 will contribute up to 75 % of the project costs. Successful bidders are therefore expected to meet at least 25 % of the cost of each project from within their own resources.
- 2.3** At its meeting on 1st April 2004, Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the submission of an Outline Bid to the 3rd Round of the MGF Fund for an information and communications technology (ICT) project in support of the Council's objectives in respect of modernising government and electronic government.
- 2.4** Members were also advised that officers were, with North and South Ayrshire Councils, and NHS Ayrshire & Arran, exploring the potential to develop an additional joint-bid to the Fund for the delivery of Integrated Electronic Children's Services Records and Child Protection.
- 2.5** At its meeting on 10th June 2004, Policy and Resources Committee was presented with details of the Council's MGF3 ICT Project Bid, and the three Council / NHS Consortium e.care / Integrated Electronic Children's Services Records / Child Protection Bid, and it was agreed that a report would be presented to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee advising Members of the outcome of the bidding process when that was known.

3. OUTCOME OF BIDDING PROCESS FOR PROPOSED ICT PROJECT

- 3.1 The Scottish Executive has announced that the Council's ICT project Bid to the 3rd Round of MGF has been approved, and consequently it has issued a "Modernising Government Fund Offer of an Award" of **£ 765,750** to the Council.
- 3.2 In announcing the award of funding, the Scottish Executive has indicated that it has retained **£ 78,000** in 2004/05 as the Council's contribution towards the funding of central projects including overall project management costs, and **£ 156,000** in 2005/06 as the Council's contribution towards the funding of the Citizen's Account and National Address Gazetteer.
- 3.3 The Scottish Executive has indicated that the award to the Council includes provision of **£ 78,000** in 2004/05 and **£ 72,000** in 2005/06 to cover the cost of issuing Entitlement Cards to all citizens in 2005/06 who qualify for the national Concessionary Fares Scheme, and thereafter to all 12 to 26 year olds.
- 3.4 Within the award the Scottish Executive has indicated a minimum set of priorities for all Councils in order to deliver the minimum requirements of their "*Customer First*" programme. These are ;
- Introduce the Citizens Account to the standards established by the centrally managed Citizens Account / Customer Relationship Management programme.
 - Complete the Corporate Address Gazetteer to the standard specified by the Definitive National Address (DNA) programme.
 - Begin the rationalisation of the different Council card schemes into a single multi-application entitlement smartcard to the specification established by the Scottish Citizens Account Smart Card (SCASC) programme.
 - Prioritise the roll-out of the entitlement card to support the concessionary fares scheme.
- 3.5 The Council is also expected to use the balance of current MGF2 carry forward towards the delivery of the wider objectives of the "*Customer First*" programme.

4. OUTCOME OF BIDDING PROCESS FOR PROPOSED FOR E.CARE / INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC CHILDREN'S SERVICES RECORDS / CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT

- 4.1 The Scottish Executive has yet to announce the outcome of the East, North and South Ayrshire Councils and NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Consortium's e.care / Integrated Electronic Children's Services Records / Child Protection Bid to the 3rd Round of MGF.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The allocation of Scottish Executive MGF3 funding to the Council is summarised as follows ;

- 5.1 The total net value to the Council in respect of approved MGF3 funding for the proposed ICT project is **£ 765,750** which will be paid to the Council through the Revenue Support Grant in two separate allocations of **£ 388,000** in 2004/05, and **£ 377,750** in 2005/06.

5.2 The requirement for 25 % matched Council contribution in respect of the MGF3 Grants will be met from appropriate project funding contained within the 2004/05 and 2005/06 Capital Programmes (IT Requirements), and relevant Departmental Revenue Budgets as appropriate.

5.3 It is anticipated that any associated recurring Revenue costs can be met from within current provisions, through a re-alignment of existing budgets.

6. LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The project is consistent with the Council's core value of access as set out in the Community Plan, will contribute significantly to the Council addressing requirements to deliver, where appropriate, electronic access to services, and will play a major part in delivering social inclusion across East Ayrshire.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Committee :

- a)** notes the Council's success in securing MGF3 funding for ICT related projects, and accept the Offer of Award as outlined in Section 3 of this Report,
- b)** notes that a further report will be presented to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee advising Members of progress in respect of delivering project objectives,
- c)** Otherwise note the contents of the Report..

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Support

AMR / 22nd February 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Scottish Executive "Modernising Government Fund" Offer letter to the Chief Executive dated 1st February 2005.

Scottish Executive "Allocations from the third Round of MGF" letter to the Head of IT (MGF Co-ordinator) dated 16th February 2005.

For further information on this Report, please contact Malcolm Roulston,
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