

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 27 MARCH 2007

ETHNIC MINORITIES LAW CENTRE (EMLC) – GRANT APPLICATION

Report by Executive 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 (EMLC) and to make recommendations accordingly.

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.
- 2.2** 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.
- 2.3** The Ethnic Minorities Law Centre delivers an outreach service which covers six other areas along with East Ayrshire.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1** The grant funding sought for this financial year £10,777 which is the proposed East Ayrshire contribution to enable the outreach service to continue, based on current usage from residents in East Ayrshire.

4. PERFORMANCE

- 4.1** There have been six one off inquiries and there are currently ten ongoing cases from the East Ayrshire area. The service will continue to address the overall aims of promoting racial equality through the provision of culturally sensitive services.
- 4.2** In 2007/8 the outreach service will have a particular focus on working with KULOC and IQRAA to raise awareness of the service in East Ayrshire.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** In financial year 2006/7 Policy & Resources Committee approved a grant of £6,365 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre. It is proposed, given the financial resources available, that Committee approve a grant award of £6,555 for 2007/08. This includes a 3% inflationary uplift.

6. POLICY & LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1** 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.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Supporting the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre is a key strand in relation to equalities which is reflected within the Community Plan.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** The funding application has undergone a financial risk management process as part of the Council's arrangements under Following The Public Pound.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1** It is recommended that Members of the Policy & Resources Committee:
- (i) agree a grant of £6,555 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre for financial year 2007/8 subject to funding from other appropriate local authorities; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/SR
26 February 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Grant Application 2007/8: CR3518.

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR