

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 15 NOVEMBER 2005**

#### **EAST AYRSHIRE CHILDREN'S PANEL: PROPOSED CREATION OF SECOND DEPUTE PANEL CHAIR POST**

##### **Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** To seek support for, and approval of any additional expense arising from the creation of a second Depute Panel Chair position for East Ayrshire Children's Panel.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** For every Local Government area within Scotland, there is a Children's Panel which is made up of members of the public who have been appointed to the Panel by the Scottish Ministers. For each Panel there is also appointed a Chairman and one or more Depute Chairmen. Each Local Authority is required to resource the Children's Panel within its area.
- 2.2** Following discussion with the existing Depute Panel Chair (the post of Chair is in the process of being filled) it has come to light, that whilst the existing Depute Panel Chair is committed to continuing with her Children's Panel responsibilities as far as possible, she has recently given up her occupation to pursue a full-time academic qualification at University and requested the establishment of a second Depute Panel Chair to assist in the work of East Ayrshire Children's Panel. With the introduction of the new Panel Chair, it would be beneficial to the administering and support of East Ayrshire Children's Panel to establish the second Depute Panel Chair position. The creation of a second Depute Panel Chair position will also provide for successor planning in respect of future vacancies of the Panel Chair, as there had been particular difficulties in filling the vacancy of the Panel Chair.
- 2.3** Following initial consultation with the Scottish Executive, they have recognised that there can be difficulties for some Children's Panel Members balancing the duties of Chair or Depute Chair with work and home responsibilities, particularly if the workload has increased significantly, and they have agreed, in principle, to the appointment of a second Depute Chair, subject to agreement by the Local Authority to meet any additional expenses of the post.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1** In respect of the position of the second Depute Chair, there is no additional expenditure other than the provision of a PC laptop, which is presently supplied to the existing Chair and existing Depute Chair. The second Depute Panel Chair may not require or wish a laptop. If it is required, the cost will be

approximately £250 per annum which can be met from existing resources. The only other additional cost will be additional travelling expenses which will be minimum, and can also be met through existing resources.

#### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, the appointment of a second Depute Panel Chair is the responsibility of the Scottish Ministers following a recommendation by the Children's Panel Advisory Committee.

#### **5. POLICY/COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The effective operation of the Children's Panel in East Ayrshire supports the Community Plan initiative through the promotion of social justice and social inclusion.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- (i) support the establishment of a second Depute Panel Chair position for East Ayrshire Children's Panel, and note any associated additional expenses will be met from existing resources;
- (ii) note the Children's Panel Advisory Committee will be responsible for carrying out the required recruitment procedure to fill the second Depute Chair position; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Elizabeth Morton  
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

LC/SM  
4 November 2005

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Correspondence in respect of the Depute Panel Chair appointment from the Scottish Executive.
2. Recruitment Procedure in respect of the Panel/Depute Panel Chair positions.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers in respect of this report should contact Lynn Chapman, Administrative Officer on Tel No 01563 576283. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on Tel No 01563 576135.

**Implementation Officer: Lynn Chapman, Administrative Officer**