

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 15 NOVEMBER 2005

PROPOSED SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To present to committee for consideration, options for establishing a Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock Town Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The establishment of a Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock Town Centre was identified as a priority for 2004 within the Community Plan's Eliminating Poverty Thematic Action Plan 2003-2007.
- 2.2 To progress this, a community-based working group was established in 2003 and funding bids were submitted to a range of external sources.
- 2.3 The submitted bids were unsuccessful and as a result of this, the working group and the project were not progressed at that time. The commitment to establish a Shopmobility Scheme remained a priority for Elected Members and at the request of the Chair of Social Inclusion/Community Planning, a short-term Officers' Working Group, chaired by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support, was established in early 2005 to drive forward this initiative. The Group comprised Officers from the Departments of Development and Property Services (Architects, Roads & Transportation, and Working for Families), Educational and Social Services (Social Work) and Corporate Support (Community Planning/Partnership).

3. PROPOSALS/OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Officers' Working Group has prepared a portfolio of information and costings, a copy of which is available in the Members' Information Point. Details include location plans, accommodation plans, insurance requirements and financial costings.

Financial Costings

- 3.2 The overall costs of establishing a Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock Town Centre, located within the Bus Station, are as follows:-

Capital/Revenue	£	Comments
Capital	45,500	Includes refurbishment of premises and purchase of 9 mobility scooters
Revenue	40,000	Includes cost for 1 member of staff and office running costs
Total	£85,500	

- 3.3 Part-year revenue costs for 2005/06 are estimated at £18,000, giving an overall financial requirement for 2005/06 of £63,500 (capital and revenue).
- 3.4 The Officers' Working Group offered proposals on how this financial commitment might be met. The Council's Corporate Management agreed that the undernoted proposed financial package to meet the 2005/06 costs and for ongoing revenue commitments would be the most appropriate, and is therefore presented to Committee for consideration:
- Capital costs to be met from uncommitted contingency within the Council's 2005/06 Capital Programme;
 - Part-year revenue costs in 2005/06 and 2006/07 to be met from Council revenue balances;
 - Ongoing revenue costs from 2007/08 onwards to be met from the Department of Development and Property Services' revenue budget.
- 3.5 The above financial package is considered by the Corporate Management Team to provide ongoing revenue support to the Scheme and to be a very positive step for the Council.

Project Management

- 3.6 Management arrangements for the Scheme have also been considered by the Working Group and 2 options identified.
- Option 1:** The Shopmobility Scheme be incorporated into the Council's core activity, with a nominated Lead Department.
- Option 2:** Management responsibility for the Scheme be devolved to a representative community group or voluntary organisation with appropriate technical and professional support provided by the Department of Development & Property Services.
- 3.7 Option 2 is considered to be the preferred option, as the ongoing operation of a Shopmobility Scheme is not considered to be core business of the Council and work to identify a suitable community group will be progressed, subject to Committee approval.
- 3.8 In addition, the Corporate Management Team identified the Department of Development and Property Services as the Lead department within the Council to support the creation, effective implementation and further development of the Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The proposals contained at Section 3 in respect of finance and management support provide an opportunity to secure a Shopmobility Scheme for the Kilmarnock Town Centre, subject to the resources being secured and an appropriate community group/voluntary organisation being engaged as the managing body.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The costings identified at section 3.2, can be met from current and future income streams within the Department of Development & Property Services.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The proposal to establish a Shopmobility Scheme in Kilmarnock Town Centre is listed as a priority action within the Community Plan's Eliminating Poverty Action Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Council's Policy and Resources Committee is asked to:

- i) agree to establish a Shopmobility Scheme within Kilmarnock Town Centre, located at the Bus Station;
- ii) agree to the financial package, detailed between sections 3.2 and 3.4 of the report;
- iii) endorse the proposal to identify an appropriate community group/voluntary organisation to lead on this initiative; and
- iv) agree that the Department of Development and Property Services should assume Lead responsibility for this initiative; and
- v) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support
3 November 2005

BACKGROUND PAPERS

East Ayrshire Community Plan – Eliminating Poverty Action Plan 2003-2007
Portfolio of Information and Costings (copy available in the Members' Information Point)

Members wishing further information on this report should contact Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager, on 01563 554602.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

Executive Director of Development and Property Services