

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: - 30 SEPTEMBER 2004

MATCH-FUND BUDGET

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee an award from the financial year 2004/2005 Match-Fund budget in respect of a new Sports Project in Newmilns – the Newmilns Snow and Sports Complex.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Newmilns Snow and Sports Complex organisation is a Company Limited by Guarantee and has been meeting for over three years. In 2001 the group developed a Business Plan and had a comprehensive feasibility study carried out on the proposed Newmilns Project.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Project is to retain and develop the Newmilns Dry Ski Slope and to provide further sport and leisure facilities in the area surrounding the dry ski slope.
- 2.3 The grant requested will allow the ski slope to begin its operation and ultimately commence generating its own revenue for sustainability and development. This unique facility could have a benefit to the general population of East Ayrshire and in particular, the following target groups:
 - young people aged 12 – 18 years (including those involved in or at risk of becoming involved in youth crime/anti-social behaviour);
 - excluded young people;
 - talented young athletes; and
 - young people looking to become sports leaders.

3. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 In order that the Project can proceed, the total funding package required is £103,500. The group will be contributing £10,000 of their own money, raised through the fundraising activities of the Friends of Newmilns Ski Slope group, and £8,500 has been secured via the Local Action Fund (managed by the Community Safety Partnership). The group has also successfully secured £45,000 of external funding from SCORE Environment (£15,000) and the West of Scotland Loan Fund (£30,000). These funds can only be drawn down if the total project cost can be fully met. The Department of Neighbourhood Services has carried out an assessment of the match fund application and recommends to Committee a match fund award of £40,000.

3.2 The following condition is also recommended:

- i) that in the event that the project is not able to proceed by 31 March 2005, due to a funding gap or other reason(s), then this Match-Fund award be withdrawn, and a new application would then require to be submitted to the Match-Fund, detailing the revised funding profile.

4. SUSTAINABILITY

4.1 The group are in possession of a very comprehensive feasibility study and business plan which points to gradual user increases over a three year period, with the project being self sustaining by year 3.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The award detailed at Section 3.2 of £40,000 can be fully met from the balance of the Match-Fund budget. If approved, the balance remaining on the 2004/05 Match Fund Budget is £38,830.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no policy/legal implications arising from this report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i) approve an award of £40,000 from the Match Fund budget to the Newmilns Snow and Sports Complex, subject to the condition set out in Section 3.2 of this report; and
- ii) otherwise, note the content of this report.

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Support

22 September 2004

Members wishing further information should contact John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication, Tel: 01563 576165 or Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager, Tel: 01563 554602.

Implementation Officer: Richard Nimmo, Neighbourhood Services