

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2006

FINANCIAL INCLUSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICER POST

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Social Work Committee of the proposed establishment of a Financial Inclusion Development Officer Post.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In June 2005, the Scottish Executive launched the Financial Inclusion Action Plan and with it, £10m of extra resources targeted to local authorities with the greatest concentration of financial exclusion.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire, with some 10.5% of households without bank accounts or savings, and a further 18% of the population income deprived, has been allocated £350,000 in each of two years, 2006/7 and 2007/8.
- 2.3 It is anticipated that the Fund will be used to provide services to communities which will include
- building financial capability/prevention/education into all services involved
 - new types of services likely to involve more than one organisation, promoting affordable lending and community banking approaches
 - promoting further examples of partnership working which include both private and social economy sectors
- 2.4 The Financial Inclusion funding will be closely monitored by the Scottish Executive to evidence establishment of additional services which can be invested in house or through other organisations.
- 2.5 In East Ayrshire proposals for use of the funding have been developed in consultation with Community Planning Partners and submitted to the Scottish Executive.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Provisional Scottish Executive agreement for the proposals including use of the additional resources for the establishment of the following posts subject to due process within the Council has been secured:

POST	GRADE	NO.
FINANCIAL INCLUSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICER	SO2	1
CLERICAL ASSISTANT	GS1/2	1

3.2 The proposed duties of the Financial Inclusion Development Officer post are detailed below:

- (i) Lead on implementation of the Council's Financial Inclusion Action Plan.
- (ii) Coordinate the delivery of agreed projects.
- (iii) Monitor agreed performance targets and indicators.
- (iv) Monitor the performance and expenditure of partner providers in relation to service level agreements, in accord with community planning processes and with reference to identified performance targets.
- (v) Prepare reports for the Community Planning Partnership and external reporting processes as required.
- (vi) Liaise with community planning and other partners regarding implementation of the Financial Inclusion Action Plan.
- (vii) Promote increased take up of services and the promotion of a joined up approach across advice agencies.

3.3 The post holder will report to the Service Manager, Performance and Development.

3.4 The Clerical Assistant will provide administrative support to the post holder and the overall Financial Inclusion Agenda.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The post will enable the Council to fulfil its obligations in relation to the allocation of Financial Inclusion funding by the Scottish Executive

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The total additional costs amount to:

S02 midpoint + employers costs @ 24.1%	£35,117
GS1/2 MIDPOINT + employers costs @ 24.1%	£15,445
TOTAL	£50, 562

5.2 These costs will be met in full from the £350,000 funding allocated in relation to the Financial Inclusion Project.

5.3 The post will require to be filled on a two year fixed term contract basis to reflect the duration of the funding allocation.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Proposals within this report directly support the Eliminating Poverty theme of the Community Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Social Work Committee is asked to:

- (i) Refer the staffing proposals contained in paragraph 3.1 to Corporate Governance Committee subject to consultation with the Trade Unions; and
- (ii) Otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social
Enc (0)
23 February 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Closing The Opportunity Gap, 2002
2. Report on Financial Inclusion funding allocation to Policy and Resources Committee 8 September 2005.

For further information regarding this report please contact:
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IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : JACKIE DONNELLY