

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 20 MAY 2004

TRANSPORT PROVISION FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the approval of elected members to conduct a review of arrangements for the provision of transport to Community and Voluntary Groups.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The primary function of the Transport Section is to meet the transport needs of departmental statutory service users. Once these core priorities have been met, and providing there is excess capacity, transport is made available for Community & Voluntary Groups.
- 2.2 Groups are able to hire the vehicle or a vehicle with driver. For groups who hire only a vehicle no charge is made. For those who hire a vehicle and driver the current cost is £9 per hour for the time that the group use the vehicle. The charges do not reflect the true cost of providing the service.

3. REVIEW OF TRANSPORT PROVISION

- 3.1 A range of groups use the available transport on either a regular or occasional basis.
- 3.2 Much of the pattern of useage is historic but has implications for management of the vehicle fleet and the drivers.
- 3.3 Significant costs are associated with the provision of transport and it is recognised that some of the groups using the transport have access to funding streams which include an element for transport.
- 3.4 It is therefore proposed that a review of transport provision be undertaken with a view to:
- (i) Developing a set of eligibility criteria for the provision of transport focusing on organisations whose activity:
- Supports core social work functions; and/or
 - Supports the Council in the implementation of local and national policy initiatives e.g. through involvement in consultation activity

(ii) Identifying alternative funding arrangements where appropriate.

3.5 It is proposed that the Review be conducted by officers from Resource Support and Social Work sections of the Department of Educational and Social Services commencing in May 2004.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of providing transport in 2003 – 2004 amounted to £73,500

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The provision of transport is not a statutory obligation and therefore has no legal implications.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Social Work Committee:-

- (i) approve the proposal to review transport arrangements; and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

John Mulgrew

Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Any member wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support at (01563) 576090.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: EUAN COUPERWHITE