

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 7 FEBRUARY 2001

CRAFTS DEVELOPMENT

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is an update on progress made in delivering the objectives of the Ayrshire and Arran Craft Development Project, a group led by East Ayrshire Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Ayrshire and Arran Craft Development Project began in 1998 as a loose affiliation of officers from three local authorities and Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire. In 1999 officers from Argyll and the Islands Enterprise Council and the Scottish Arts Council joined the group. The purpose of the group is to take a focused approach to the support and promotion of craft across Ayrshire and Arran through joint initiatives.
- 2.2 Following a decision of this Committee of 15th March 2000, East Ayrshire Council appointed Vanessa Morris as Craft Development Officer to deliver the aims of the Ayrshire and Arran Craft Development Project. This post is funded by the Scottish Arts Council, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, Argyll and the Island Enterprise, North Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Council. A steering group made up of funding partners manages the general direction of the Craft Development Officer's work, with day to day supervision coming from the Museums and Arts section of Community Services.

3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 Since coming into post, the Craft Development Officer has largely dealt with setting up of the project's administration, along with establishing East Ayrshire's role in the craft sector at a regional and national level.
- 3.2 This post has been realised at a time when a Scotland wide review of the social and economic value of craft is being undertaken by the Scottish Enterprise Network and the Scottish Arts Council. East Ayrshire Council, for the first time, has an opportunity to contribute to future policy formation in this sector, which will benefit individual makers and small businesses in our area.
- 3.3 Further funding applications are currently being prepared to attract more money into East Ayrshire for craft. New projects include a proposal to establish Ayrshire Craft stands at selected national and international trading events. This will lead to new business opportunities for craft makers.

European funds are also being pursued for small business and specialist training.

- 3.4 Locally, new venues for the exhibition of craft are currently being explored. In particular, tourist locations have been identified where local hand made crafts can be sold to visitors. New craft exhibitions have also been programmed for the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock, the Baird Institute, Cumnock and Cathcartston Visitor Centre, Dalmellington.

4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This innovative project continues to deliver objectives as laid out in the Leisure Strategy.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The Ayrshire and Arran Craft Development Project continues to develop in line with the Council's core values and has led to a successful new partnership with four external organisations.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/DC/JY
5 January 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 554701 and ask for Donna Chisholm.

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AGENDA