

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 7TH FEBRUARY 2001

NEW CUMNOCK SWIMMING POOL

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the lease of the New Cumnock Swimming Pool buildings to the New Cumnock Environmental Regeneration Volunteers (NERV).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Community Services Committee meeting held on 21st September 2000 it was agreed that the New Cumnock Swimming Pool be declared surplus to requirements subject to the agreement of a suitable lease with the New Cumnock Environmental Regeneration Volunteers Group. The Director of Community Services was further asked to conclude negotiations on a possible funding support package with NERV and report back in due course.
- 2.2 Negotiations have now been concluded and NERV have submitted a detailed proposal for consideration.

3. NERV PROPOSAL

- 3.1 NERV have submitted a Business Plan, developed in partnership with the Galleon Centre to develop and manage the facilities at New Cumnock Pool for a five year period from 2001 to 2005.
- 3.2 The proposal involves capital investment in new changing facilities to be built on the poolside, new security arrangements and a pool for small children. NERV are seeking external funding for the Capital works programme. Any work will be subject to Council approval through the usual building control procedures.
- 3.3 NERV envisage opening the pool for a 22 week summer season each year and marketing a programme of sessions and activities for the whole community. Day to day management and supervision will be carried out by Galleon Centre staff who have extensive experience in the management and operation of swimming pools.

3.4 NERV have proposed that the revenue subsidy required for the pool will be met by grants from the Minerals Trust, which has indicated in principle support of £25,000 p.a., and from the Council from whom £25,000 is requested.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 NERV have requested a grant of £25,000, equivalent to the 2000/01 budget the Council has for this facility. However, revenue grant support of £23,000 is recommended.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Transfer of responsibility for the pool to NERV will require the agreement of a formal lease between NERV and the Council.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The Business Plan submitted by NERV has been examined by the Director of Development Services and is satisfactory.

7.2 NERV are confident that capital funds will be raised for the development works programme.

7.3 The involvement of the Galleon Centre in the management of the pool will ensure that appropriate operational standards are maintained.

7.4 The Business Plan shows a small annual surplus being generated each year, for this reason a grant of £23,000 would be appropriate for 2001/02 and NERV should submit an application for further funding on an annual basis.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- (i) approve a grant in principle of £23,000 to NERV as revenue support towards the operation of New Cumnock Swimming Pool in 2001 in accordance with the business plan previously submitted to the Council and subject to confirmation of the Councils budget for 2001/02; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/SAM
18th December 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1) NERV Business Plan September 2000

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576264 and ask for John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services.

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AGENDA