

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2002**

#### **INVESTMENT IN DRAMA – SOCIAL INCLUSION**

##### **Report by Director of Community Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To note the award for funding for the establishment of two drama development posts, for two years, funded by the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) and the Scottish Arts Council (SAC).

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 For 2001/2002 the SAC ring-fenced £400,000 available only to Social Inclusion Partnerships for arts projects. Awards were made on a competitive basis, the maximum award available being £100,000.
- 2.2 After initial meetings between the Museums & Arts Service and SIP Board, to discuss the benefits arts can bring to communities, a paper was presented to the Board in June 2001 with an outline application of this project. The SIP Board approved funding of £104,500 over two years. An application to the SAC was submitted in July 2001 for £96,000 and was successful. This is the largest award made to any single Social Inclusion Partnership in 2000/2001.

### **3. INVESTMENT IN DRAMA – SOCIAL INCLUSION**

- 3.1 The project will run over two years beginning in July 2002, and consist of three levels of drama activity:
  - 3.1.1 Level One – Adult Drama Outreach in Rural Communities; Establishing six community drama groups for adults with up to 20 members each.
  - 3.1.2 Level Two – Training to Employment Skill Building; Will give a total of 96 participants the skills required to assist in securing appropriate employment.
  - 3.1.3 Level Three – Investing in the Future of Drama; Five trainees will be recruited for two full-time years of learning and work experience, with Langside College, in Glasgow, and in the project itself.
- 3.2 Borderline Theatre, East Ayrshire Employment Initiative and Langside College, are working in partnership with the Arts & Cultural Development Officer to implement the project.

3.3 The two drama officers will be employed by East Ayrshire Council and managed by the Arts & Cultural Development Officer. They will be seconded to the SIP for the duration of this project.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The total project cost will be £228, 940 over two years. There is no cash contribution from East Ayrshire Council, although in-kind assistance is provided.

#### **5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Nil

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The appointment of drama officers to facilitate this project will directly deliver our objectives in arts development and intersect with the Council Plan, in relation to tackling unemployment and excellence through education.

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 It is understood that this project is a first amongst social inclusion areas in Scotland. The project has been developed to bring long term benefits to residents within the SIP area, and will be most notably measured by job creation. Furthermore the project will establish a precedent for sustainable arts development activity and create a solid, lasting structure for arts activity on which to build.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report.

William Stafford  
Director of Community Services

WS/JM

7<sup>th</sup> January 2002

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Full application to the Scottish Arts Council for INVESTMENT IN DRAMA
2. Outline proposal presented to SIP Board

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 554701 and ask for Joanne Moore, Arts & Cultural Development Officer.

Implementation Officer: [john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**AGENDA**