

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 21ST MARCH 2002

GALLEON CENTRE – REVENUE GRANT 2002/03

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for a revenue grant to the Galleon Centre, Kilmarnock for the financial year 2002/03.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In previous years the Council has offered financial support to the Galleon Centre for both capital repayment and revenue subsidy purposes. In 2001/02 this funding amounted to £200,000 revenue and £150,000 capital.
- 2.2 The Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust, the operators of the Galleon Centre, are seeking funding from the Council of £130,000 to support the revenue costs of running the Galleon Centre in 2002/03. Any Capital contribution available from the Council would be used to fund maintenance and refurbishment works at the Galleon Centre.

4. CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Several significant changes in the relationship between the Council and the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust were implemented in 2001/02 including:-
- the removal of the requirement on the Council to underwrite the Centre's revenue costs; and
 - the establishment of a more independent Trust with less direct input from the Council by involving the local business and sports communities.
- 4.2 In addition the Centre continued to retain its strong position in the local market by investing in maintenance and refurbishment works to keep the building in good, safe condition. New, direct competition in the form of Fitness First on Queens Drive, Kilmarnock opened during 2001/02.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 A sum of £130,000 is available in the Community Services Department budget for 2001/02 for support to the Galleon Centre. Any capital support will be determined as a separate issue.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The award of this grant is in adherence with the Council's Leisure Strategy.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 A revenue grant of £130,000 to the Galleon Centre reflects the importance of the Centre to Leisure provision in East Ayrshire and takes into account the significant changes being made to the relationship between the Council and the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) approves a grant of £130,000 to the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust for 2002/03;
 - (ii) remits to the Director of Community Services to produce appropriate progress reports regarding the Galleon Centre during the year; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services
WS/JAG/JS
13TH March 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report to Community Services Committee 6th February 2002 – Galleon Centre Progress Report

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper listed above should telephone John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services, Ext 6264.

AGENDA

Implementation Officer – john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk