

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 5TH FEBRUARY 2003

MAJOR GRANTS AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for new Service Level Agreements covering the committee's grant to the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust, New Cumnock Environmental Regeneration Volunteers (N.E.R.V.) and Bellsbank Adventure Playground and approve the level of grant for these organisations for 2003/04.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As a response to changing guidance regarding grants to external organisations, Service Level Agreements have been developed to clarify the Council's expectations and requirements with reference to grants of over £5,000 per annum applied for by the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust (Galleon Centre), New Cumnock Environmental Regeneration Volunteers – (New Cumnock Swimming Pool) and the Bellsbank Adventure Playground.
- 2.2 The Service Level Agreements have been accepted by the three organisations and reflect realistic expectations of service outcomes whilst ensuring that the Council's financial support is used effectively and appropriately.
- 2.3 The Council provided financial support of £130,000 to the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust in 2003/04 to support the running costs of the Galleon Leisure Centre. A similar amount has been requested for 2003/04.
- 2.4 The grants to N.E.R.V. and the Bellsbank Adventure Playground are the subject of the standard Grants to Voluntary Organisation application and assessment procedures. Both organisations are obliged to apply for grant on an annual basis and their applications are assessed with reference to the organisations needs for the coming year and the available budget.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The new Service Level Agreement for the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust is based on a requirement to provide a wide range of sports and leisure opportunities for the whole community. The Galleon Centre consistently outperforms other similar facilities in Scotland in terms of its level of operational subsidy and continues to be managed and marketed effectively. A revenue subsidy of £130,000 is considered appropriate for 2003/04. It should be noted that the Galleon Centre requires capital investment to update and review facilities; this requirement is considered as part of the capital programme planning process.
- 3.2 The N.E.R.V. organisation has taken responsibility for the New Cumnock Swimming Pool and has carried out significant improvements to the facility. The Service Level Agreement reflects the requirement to offer a safe, attractive facility for the whole community during the summer opening season.

The application from N.E.R.V. requests financial support for the operation of the pool, this has been assessed and an amount of £22,300 for 2003/04 put forward for approval.

- 3.3 The Service Level Agreement for the Bellsbank Adventure Playground reflects a requirement to provide a safe, attractive environment for activities for young people in the Doon Valley. The Adventure Playground continues to develop its facilities, and activities, and is well established. The grant aid application has been assessed and an amount of £22,250 for 2003/04 put forward for approval. As the organisation does not have the appropriate dissolution clause in its constitution, it should be a condition of this grant that this clause is added at their next Annual General Meeting.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The three grants recommended for approval in this report can be met from the Draft Revenue Estimates submitted for approval elsewhere on this agenda.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable to this report.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The introduction of Service Level Agreements for the three organisations referred to in this report is in line with Council guidance on grants to external bodies.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The introduction of Service Level Agreements will clarify the Council's expectations and the responsibilities of the external organisations in delivering services supported by Council funding.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee, subject to the approval by Special Council on 13 February 2003 of the General Services Revenue Estimates 2003/2004:-

- (i) approve the introduction of Service Level Agreements for the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust, New Cumnock Environmental Volunteers and Bellsbank Adventure Playground;
- (ii) approve a grant of £130,000 to the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust for 2003/04;
- (ii) approve a grant of £22,300 to the New Cumnock Environmental Regeneration Volunteers for 2003/04;
- (iii) approve a grant of £22,250 to the Bellsbank Adventure Playground for 2003/04, subject to the requirement to add an appropriate dissolution clause to their constitution at the organisations next Annual General Meeting;

- 8.2 that it be remitted to the Director of Community Services to submit appropriate progress reports in 2003/04; and

- 8.3 that the report be otherwise noted.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/KH

20th January 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust – Service Level Agreement
2. N.E.R.V. – Service Level Agreement.
3. N.E.R.V. – Grant Assessment Report
4. Bellsbank Adventure Playground – Service Level Agreement.
5. Bellsbank Adventure Playground – Grant Assessment Report.

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

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