

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2003**

### **FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES**

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

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

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of proposed changes to the funding and structure of two football development schemes supported by the Council, Kilmarnock Football Club and other partners.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 There are currently two partnership funded football development posts working in East Ayrshire, a Community Football Development Officer for East Ayrshire funded by Kilmarnock Football Club (KFC), the Scottish Football Association (SFA) and the Council and a Girls'/Women's Football Development Officer for Ayrshire funded by KFC, SFA, Sportscotland, North Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Council.
- 2.2 Both postholders are employed by KFC and are based at Rugby Park, Kilmarnock. The contract for the Community Football Development Officer post is due to end on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2003 and the contract for the Girls'/Women's Football Development Officer post is due to end on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

#### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 KFC have indicated that due to the reductions in their management structure, they are unable to continue with the current management arrangements for the Girls'/Women's Football Development Officer.
- 3.2 The Club have also indicated similar difficulties with the Community Football Development Officer post. However, they may wish to continue to support this post. In view of the Council's significant financial contribution to this post, it would be appropriate to review the management and financial arrangements for this project in order to ensure that value for money is being achieved.

- 3.3 Discussion with existing and potential partners have taken place regarding the future of both projects. At the time of writing it is probable that new management and funding arrangements for the Girls'/Women's Football Development Officer will be achievable with the Council being asked to take on employers' responsibilities for hosting the post which will cover the whole of Ayrshire.
- 3.4 In order to facilitate a review of the Community Football Development Officer role, an extension of the existing officer's contract until 5<sup>th</sup> September 2003 has been agreed. Several options have emerged regarding the future of the project and it may be the preferences of the funding partners to continue with football development with an officer hosted by the Council and funded by the Council, KFC and the SFA. This would be the preferred options as this would allow the Community Football Development Officer to work more closely with the Council's Leisure Development Team with a focus on achieving the objectives set by the funding partners.
- 3.5 Agreement on funding and management arrangements for both posts will be required by July to allow posts to be advertised and filled in early September, and as the next meeting of this Committee is not scheduled until September early consideration of these projects is required.

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

- 4.1 Nil.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil.

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

- 6.1 These partnership projects aimed at increasing participation and skills development in football for young people are in line with the aims of the Council's Leisure Strategy and developing Cultural Strategy for East Ayrshire.

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Kilmarnock Football Club's proposal to withdraw from the management of football development schemes has created an opportunity for the funding partners to review arrangements for the future of football development.

7.2 As the funding partners have not yet examined all the available options, no preferred proposals have been developed at the time of writing this report. A verbal update will be given at the meeting if appropriate.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) remit to the Director of Community Services to secure new partnership arrangements for football development within existing departmental budgets;
- ii) approve the potential requirement to host and manage the projects if necessary; and
- iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford  
**Director of Community Services**

WS/JAG/KH

30<sup>th</sup> April 2003

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Letters from Kilmarnock Football Club dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2003.

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

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