

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

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

#### **PROPOSED NORTHWEST KILMARNOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES CENTRE – OPTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HUNTER CENTRE**

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

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

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the potential improvements possible at the Hunter Centre, Kilmarnock as part of the Northwest Kilmarnock Neighbourhood Services Centre and seek approval for the submission of appropriate bids for funding to the Sports Lottery fund.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2002, financial and accommodation details for the Northwest Kilmarnock Neighbourhood Services Centre were agreed.
- 2.2 A project brief has since been developed for the agreed site on Council owned land surrounding the Hunter Centre in Ardbeg Avenue, Kilmarnock

### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Development of the new facilities presents opportunities to improve and potentially expand the Hunter Centre utilising Sports Lottery funds.
- 3.2 The Hunter Centre currently provides a small sports hall that is less than the standard size recognised by SportsScotland, a small fitness suite and ancillary changing rooms. Ideally a standard sized (34m-19m) sports hall and a larger, better equipped, fitness suite should be available at the site.
- 3.3 Design options for the Neighbourhood Services Centre are currently being developed, bringing together a wide range of services. Ensuring appropriate linkage between health services and sports/community leisure provision is a key aim of the project.
- 3.4 One available option would be to construct a new sports hall on the site and include the existing hall, refitted and reconfigured, within the new centre with a new enlarged fitness suite. Site conditions may dictate that the new hall may be physically separate from the Centre but facilities such as car parking would be shared.

- 3.5 A second option would be to modernise the existing facilities, including the sports hall, and include them as part of the new Centre, with shared reception facilities etc.
- 3.6 In both cases external funding from the Sports Lottery would be essential for the project to proceed. All existing funding criteria are currently being reviewed by Sportscotland and details are not yet available regarding how funding will be distributed in the future. The last available bidding round will commence in July 2003, with decisions likely to be made in November. As this Committee will not meet again until September, this issue requires early consideration. The range of mainstream health, community and social facilities to be provided in the Centre would integrate well with sports and leisure provision and this may prove to be attractive to Sportscotland when determining grant funding.
- 3.7 Refurbishment of the Hunter Centre will be an essential element of the new development, however it is not possible to determine which option will be pursued at present as further investigations are required.

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

- 4.1 The financial package being assembled for this project will be used as match funding for a bid to Sportscotland. A further report seeking approval for the Council's financial contribution will follow when this requirement has been clarified.

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

- 5.1 Nil.

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

- 6.1 Development of new sports facilities would be in line with the priorities of the Council's Leisure Strategy and emerging Cultural Strategy.

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Redevelopment of the facilities at the Hunter Centre will be an integral part of the new development and will add value to the project.
- 7.2 While options are still being explored, additional funding in the form of grant from Sports Lottery funds will be required if significant improvements in the sports and leisure facilities on site are to be secured.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- i) note the current position regarding the potential development of the Hunter Centre as part of the North West Kilmarnock Neighbourhood Services Centre;

- ii) approve the submission of appropriate external funding bids to support this element of the project;
- iii) note that a further report regarding the financial support for this project will be submitted by the Director of Community Services in due course; and
- iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford  
**Director of Community Services**

WS/JAG/KH

1<sup>st</sup> May 2003

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil.**

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