

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2002

AYRSHIRE CURLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - FUNDING RENEWAL

Report by Director of Community Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the continuation of funding of the Ayrshire Curling Development Post in conjunction with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, North Ayrshire Leisure and South Ayrshire Council.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Royal Caledonian Curling Club is the Sport's National Governing Body in Scotland. In recent years the organisation has developed considerably towards the strategic development of curling at participation, performance and excellence levels. Key progress areas for the Governing Body include:

- i) Successful applications to the Sports Lottery Talented Athlete Programme resulting in direct awards to East Ayrshire curlers at Excellence Levels.
- ii) The inclusion of curling in the Scottish Institute of Sport and West Area Institute of Sport.
- iii) The implementation of the "Curling is Cool" initiative which targets children of Primary School age.

- 2.2 The Royal Caledonian Curling Club has reinforced these national initiatives within Ayrshire by establishing the joint funded Curling Development Officer in 2000. The post is financed by the Governing Body, East Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Leisure and South Ayrshire Council.

- 2.3 East Ayrshire has a strong history of curling, boasting a unique curling stone factory in Mauchline and the extremely popular rink at the Galleon Centre in Kilmarnock.

- 2.4 Within this well established sporting framework two East Ayrshire Curlers were members of the 2002 Gold Medal winning Olympic team, Rhona Martin from Dunlop and Margaret Morton of Mauchline. In addition the current post holder, Sheila Swan, was a member of the World Championship winning team in April 2002.

3 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The post is now nearing the end of its third and final year and the clear focus upon development, which it has provided has begun to pay dividends. Within East Ayrshire there is now a clear pathway from participation to performance and excellence allowing all participants the opportunity to reach their full potential from club player to Olympic Gold Medallist. Approximately 20 children per week attend the after school club; the Galleon Club membership has increased and five curlers from Ayrshire are part of the Scottish Institute of Sport with three being admitted into the West Area Institute.
- 3.2 The Ayrshire Curling Development Officer has developed close working relations with the Educational and Social Services Department. The National Curling is Cool initiative was piloted with East Ayrshire Primary Schools and has now been fully implemented. Within the last year over 550 children from twelve East Ayrshire Primary Schools have attended a six-week block of curling coaching sessions within the Galleon Centre. Indeed East Ayrshire has hosted the largest schools curling festivals in Scotland for two years in succession with over 200 children in attendance. This initiative has attracted coverage in local and national press and within sports specific publications.
- 3.3 In terms of Community Sports Development, the post has made a significant impact over the 3 year period with over 200 children participating in school holiday curling coaching programmes. Many children from the Social Inclusion Partnership area have directly benefited from this initiative. In addition the inclusive nature of this sport has been fully exploited via the introduction of "New Age Kurling", a games hall version of Curling and the provision of ice-based curling for disabled people.
- 3.3 In terms of coach education and development around 15 local primary teachers have achieved the level A award ensuring the sustained delivery of curling at grass roots level. In addition the Officer has worked closely with a number of local curling clubs in order to build sustainable infrastructures for the development of the sport.
- 3.4 It is envisaged that through this strategic framework more young people within East Ayrshire will reach excellence level within curling.
- 3.5 East Ayrshire's reputation for excellence in curling also resulted in the Royal Caledonian Curling Club hosting their annual summer coaching camp at the Galleon Centre.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Curling Development Officer would be employed on a salary of £16,480 in year one, £17,139 in year two and £17,824 in year three.

4.2 Based upon this salary the actual employment costs including National Insurance Contributions and other expenses would be £23,190 in year one, £24,118 in year two and £25,083 in year three.

4.3 The financial contribution of each of the four partners viz Royal Caledonian Curling Club, East Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Leisure and South Ayrshire Council would be as follows:

Year One	£5,400
Year Two	£5,616
Year Three	£5,840

4.4 Monies can be identified from within existing Recreation Development budgets to finance the scheme for a further three year period.

4.5 Additional income generated as a result of development initiatives will also contribute to offset project costs.

5 LEGAL AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Not applicable

6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Curling Development Post and strategic development intersect directly with Sport 21 National Strategy, 20-20 vision National Curling Strategy and East Ayrshire Council's Leisure Strategy – SD1:

'To increase opportunities to take part in sport by providing appropriate sports development programmes which sustain interest and provide pathways for progression at foundation, participation, performance and excellence levels'.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The continuation of this initiative, as proposed by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, will allow the sport of Curling to further develop in a fundamental and dramatic fashion to the benefit of the East Ayrshire sporting community.

7.2 The Partnership approach to service delivery is directly in line with the Council's core values and clearly reflects a strategic approach to the development of sport.

7.3 The success of the British and Scottish teams on the International stage coupled with the extensive range of local curling activity has raised the profile of East Ayrshire both nationally and locally.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) approve the allocation of partnership funding for a further three year period as outlined in point 4.3 of this report;
- ii) remit to the Director of Community Services to provide regular progress reports on the performance of the project; and
- iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

21st October 2002

WS/AB

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 Royal Caledonian Curling Club Development Plan 1999 – 2004
- 3 East Ayrshire Council Leisure Strategy
- 4 Sport 21: Sport Scotland National Strategy
- 5 Ayrshire Curling Development Annual Report – March 2002

Any person wishing to inspect the above background papers should contact Angie Bennett, Sports Development Manager on 01563 576721.

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AGENDA