

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2002**

#### **BURNS MONUMENT, KAY PARK, KILMARNOCK**

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

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

- 1.1 To consider and approve, if acceptable, proposals for the revitalisation of the Burns Monument, Kay Park, Kilmarnock and to approve an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a “project planning grant” to carry out a feasibility study on the proposals.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 As Members will be aware, the Monument was closed to public access prior to local government reorganisation in 1996 by Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council.
- 2.2 The lack of a viable and sustainable end use for the building to date has restricted the potential for external funding to restore the building.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The development of a sustainable end use for the property is crucial to securing the future of this property. It is therefore suggested that the property could be refurbished repaired and extended to form a Local History, Heritage and Genealogy Centre accessible on-line from libraries and registration offices across East Ayrshire, as well as Registration facilities such as a marriage suite.
- 3.2 The Registration Service is currently experiencing major legislative and administrative change providing an opportunity to refocus the service. A ground-breaking facility could be created by developing the Burns Monument site and relocating the Kilmarnock Registration Office to that site alongside library heritage services while retaining a public contact point for registration within the town centre. A facility combining these services would provide a “1 stop” destination for genealogical research in East Ayrshire. This could be a major attraction for researchers and visitors, many of whom come from overseas, and provide a facility which would be unique in Scotland.
- 3.3 Discussions have taken place at officer level with Historic Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Registrar General for Scotland and the responses have been generally positive. However, it is suggested that the first stage in the development and revitalisation of the Monument should be an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Project Development Grant. A grant of 90% of the cost of this study may be available. This study will provide

considerable detail on the property and the remedial works necessary. In many respects it will be an integral part of any subsequent application for external funding to develop the proposals.

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

- 4.1 The cost of the feasibility study cannot be quantified at the present time but the Council's share is likely to be minimal. It is anticipated that this will be met from the department budget.

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

- 5.1 Nil

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

- 6.1 Nil

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The proposals set out in this report present an opportunity to develop a sustainable future for the Burns Monument. The application for a Project Planning Grant is an integral part of the development of an external funding package which could be subsequently put together to fund the works required at the Monument.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) Consider and, if acceptable, agree the proposals for the revitalisation of the Burns monument in the Kay Park;
  - (ii) Remit to the Director of Community Services to submit an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Project Planning Grant in respect of the development proposals; and
  - (iii) Otherwise note the terms of this report.

William Stafford  
**Director of Community Services**  
25<sup>TH</sup> October 2002  
WS/JS

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

Nil

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**AGENDA**