

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2003

RESULTS OF MAJOR EXTERNAL FUNDING BIDS

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the results of major external funding bids received since the last meeting.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Since the 28th May meeting of the Committee four major funding bids have been determined, these are:-

- i) A bid to the Arts Lottery Fund for £250,000 to support a project to improve catering facilities, interior design and disabled access at the Palace Theatre as approved by this Committee on 28th May 2003.
- ii) A bid to the New Opportunities Fund for funds totalling £140,000 to implement a Paths to Health Initiative called CATCH (Community Activity to Community Health) to promote walking for health as approved by this Committee on 2nd April 2003.
- iii) Bids to a wide range of funders including the European Regional Development Fund, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and the Heritage Lottery fund for capital and revenue funds totalling £2.6m to support the path networks including the River Ayr walkway, as approved by this Committee on 2nd April 2003.
- iv) A bid to the Sports Lottery to support a Kilmarnock Football Academy seeking funding of £500,000 for facilities at Townholm to be developed and managed in partnership with Kilmarnock College and Kilmarnock Football Club as approved by the Emergency Powers Committee on 16th December 2002.

3. RESULTS

- 3.1 The Palace Theatre project was awarded £137,000 by the Scottish Arts Council and the project will now proceed with some minor amendments. Financial constraints meant that it was unlikely that the full £250,000

would be awarded. Further applications are now being developed for the Dick Institute and other Museums/Arts venues. Work at the Palace Theatre will now take place in January and the facility should re-open in March. Several events will be moved to the Grand Hall during this period.

- 3.2 All funding required for the CATCH project has now been secured and the appointment of the Walking Development Manager has been made. The total external grant is £140,000 and the project will run for 3 years.
- 3.3 A funding package of (£2.1m) for the major Path projects has been secured and a decision on funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund is imminent. This represents a huge achievement for a unique project and successful funding applications have been made to 15 organisations to date. The central development of this project, the River Ayr path network will support both local employment and the development of tourism in East Ayrshire.
- 3.4 The bid for funding for a Kilmarnock Football Academy was turned down by **sportscotland**, along with all other bids to the Football Academy Funding Strand presented to the **sportscotland** board in July. The Football Academy concept has now been replaced by a Regional Sports Academy project which will support the provision of multi-sport facilities across Scotland. Further details of the exact nature of these facilities and the funding criteria are awaited from **sportscotland**. The Council's partners in the Football Academy bid, Kilmarnock College and Kilmarnock Football Club are keen to be involved in future funding bids.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Each successful bid has a set of reporting and accounting criteria to be met and officers will be required to ensure that each funding body is satisfied that these arrangements are in place.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council will be bound by the conditions of grant award in all cases.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The projects supported by the successful external funding bids are in line with the Leisure Strategy and the emerging Cultural Strategy for East Ayrshire.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The new projects will allow the improvement and development of Leisure Services in East Ayrshire and the grant awards represent significant investment over and above the Council's current budgets.
- 7.2 While the result of the Football Academy bid was disappointing but the lessons learned from this process and the strength of the partnership developed to produce the bid will be beneficial if a bid for a regional sports academy in Kilmarnock is viable.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/KH

9th September 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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