

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2003

REVISED FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES – PROGRESS REPORT

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the progress being made in securing partnership funded football development posts, and seek approval for the appointment of a Girls'/Women's Football Development Officer.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Committee meeting held on 28th May 2003, it was noted that Kilmarnock Football Club had indicated that it could no longer manage or fund the Community Football Development Officer and Girls'/Women's Football Development Officer, and as a result, the temporary contracts of both postholders would end on 5th September 2003. The Football Club has since indicated that the position regarding the Community Football Development Officer is being reviewed with a view to continuing with the post with the support of EAC and the Scottish Football Association (SFA).
- 2.2 It was remitted to the Director of Community Services to secure new partnership arrangements for football development, within existing budgets. It was also agreed that the Council would host and manage the projects if necessary.
- 2.3 Extensive discussions have taken place with a wide range of potential partners with a view to continuing the successful football development programmes established over the last three years. A package to secure the Girls'/Women's Football Development Officer for Ayrshire has been successfully negotiated.
- 2.4 Negotiations regarding the Community Football Development Officer have resulted in a funding package being developed to support an officer being employed by Kilmarnock Football Club.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Funding for a 3-year Girls'/Women's Development Officer, working throughout Ayrshire, has been agreed in principle with the Scottish Football Association, South Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Leisure and Kilmarnock Football Club.

3.2 It is proposed that East Ayrshire Council becomes the employer and host for this post. All costs, including travel, administration etc will be met by the partners.

3.3 The proposed financial package is as follows:-

Total cost £80,000 over 3 years.

Contributions

SFA	£27,000
SAC	£15,000
EAC (Quality of Life Fund)	£20,000
KFC	£ 3,000
North Ayrshire Leisure	<u>£15,000</u>
	<u>£80,000</u>

3.4 The withdrawal of management support and substantial funding by Kilmarnock Football Club will be offset by additional support from the other partners and the inclusion of South Ayrshire Council as a funding partner. This will allow the scheme to continue to build on significant progress that has been made to date.

3.5 Kilmarnock Football Club is reviewing its position regarding the Community Football Development Officer and is set to continue to support this initiative and directly employ an appropriate officer. The SFA are committed to offering support for this project and a contribution of £10,000 p.a. for 3 years has been requested from EAC. A more direct role in the management of the post has also been offered to the Council.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 In order to fund the financial package required to secure the appointment of a Girls'/Women's Football Development Officer for 3 years, a sum of £20,000 is required (approx £6,700 p.a.). This can be met from Quality of Life Funds.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The partnership projects in Football Development are aimed at increasing participation and skills development in football and are in line with the aims of the Council's Leisure Strategy and emerging Cultural Strategy for East Ayrshire.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The partnership funding package negotiated to support the Girls'/Women's Football Development Officer represents the best option available to sustain this Ayrshire wide project.
- 7.2 Kilmarnock Football Club wish to appoint and manage a Community Development Officer and financial support of £10,000 p.a. for 3 years has been requested. This funding could be met from Quality of Life funding as discussed elsewhere on this agenda.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- i) approves the funding package for the Girls'/Women's Development post;
 - ii) approves the recruitment of the Girls'/Women's Development officer subject to the approval of the Corporate Governance Committee;
 - iii) approves financial support of £10,000 p.a. for 3 years in relation to the Community Football Development Officer post, to be met from Quality of Life funding.
 - iv) otherwise notes the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/KH

18th August 2003

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Community Services Report dated 28th May 2003

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers, please contact John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services, on 01563 576264.

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