

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CORPORATE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 12TH FEBRUARY 2002

INVESTMENT IN DRAMA – SOCIAL INCLUSION

Joint Report by the Director of Community Services and Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the establishment of two drama development posts, for two years, funded by the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) and the Scottish Arts Council (SAC).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 For 2001/2002 the SAC ring-fenced £400,000 available only to Social Inclusion Partnerships for arts projects. Awards were made on a competitive basis, the maximum award available being £100,000.
- 2.2 After initial meetings between the Museums & Arts Service and SIP Board, to discuss the benefits arts can bring to communities, a paper was presented to the Board in June 2001 with an outline application of this project. The SIP Board approved funding of £104,500 over two years. An application to the SAC was submitted in July 2001 for £96,000 and was successful. This is the largest award made to any single Social Inclusion Partnership in 2000/2001.

3. INVESTMENT IN DRAMA – SOCIAL INCLUSION

- 3.1 The project will run over two years beginning in July 2002, and consist of three levels of drama activity, the establishment of six Community Drama Groups, training for employment skill building and funding trainees through two years of drama training and work experience.
- 3.2 Borderline Theatre, East Ayrshire Employment Initiative and Langside College, are working in partnership with the Arts & Cultural Development Officer to implement the project.
- 3.3 The two appointments will be employed by East Ayrshire Council for a period of up to 2 years and managed by the Arts & Cultural Development Officer. They will be seconded to the SIP for the duration of this project.
- 3.4 The Drama Development Officer would be appointed at AP4 (£18,878). The Drama Worker will be appointed at AP3 (£16,673).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The total project cost of £228,940 over two years will be met from the external funding monies. The staffing costs will be met from within this funding. There is no cash contribution from East Ayrshire Council, although in-kind assistance is provided.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The appointment of drama officers to facilitate this project will directly deliver our objectives in arts development and intersect with the Council Plan, in relation to tackling unemployment and excellence through education.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 It is understood that this project is a first amongst social inclusion areas in Scotland. The project has been developed to bring long term benefits to residents within the SIP area, and will be most notably measured by job creation. Furthermore the project will establish a precedent for sustainable arts development activity and create a solid, lasting structure for arts activity on which to build.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:
- (i) Approve the establishment of the post of Drama Development Officer and Drama Worker for up to two years; and
 - (ii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JM
21st January 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Full application to the Scottish Arts Council for INVESTMENT IN DRAMA
2. Outline proposal presented to SIP Board

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 55 4701 and ask for Joanne Moore, Arts & Cultural Development Officer.

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AGENDA