

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE: 31 JANUARY 2002

CUMNOCK AREA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Report by Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is (i) to update Members on the progress of the environmental improvement projects identified as priorities within the Cumnock Area Local Committee Area, and (ii) to seek the Committee's approval to re-allocate any remaining funding from the Muirkirk project to alternative projects.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Cumnock Area Local Committee on 25 February 1999 allocated a total of £25,000 from the residual balances in the funds of the former Cumnock and Doon Valley Initiative to the following five projects:

- (1) Netherthird Footpath
- (2) Hearth Road, Cumnock
- (3) Catrine Footpath River Ayr
- (4) Millennium Stones, Muirkirk
- (5) Former Co-op, Main Street/Glasgow Road, Muirkirk

3. PROGRESS TO DATE

3.1 The funding allocated to the first four projects on the above list has now been spent.

3.2 Former Co-op, Main Street/Glasgow Road – Phase 1 of the project including the demolition of the former Co-op property, the clearing of the site and the improvement works to the gable wall of the adjacent building have now been completed. To date £3,460 of the £9,500 allocated to this project has been spent. The implementation of Phase 2 of the environmental improvement of the site is subject to the co-operation of the owner. Match funding has been obtained by Muirkirk Enterprise Group (MEG) from the Cumnock and Doon Valley Minerals Trust and Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire. Elements of this funding require to be spent before the end of March 2002.

4. FALL BACK POSITION

4.1 In the event that the owner of the Former Co-op, Muirkirk site does not agree by the end of January 2002 to the Phase 2 environmental improvements of his site, alternative proposals are required to be considered to ensure that the element of funding required to be spent by March 2002 is not lost. The remaining £6,040 from the Cumnock and Doon Valley Initiative allocated to the Former Co-op, Muirkirk project could therefore be re-allocated to an alternative project, as identified in previous reports to Committee.

4.2 Alternative projects are as follows, and are not listed in any priority or preference:-

1. Tanyard/Lugar Street, Cumnock – upgrading of existing site between Tanyard and Lugar Bridge, creation of feature site entrance to Lugar Street. Original estimated cost up to £5,500.
2. Site of Former Social Work Offices Aird Avenue, Auchinleck – grass mounded soft landscaping, footpath and benches. Original estimated cost up to £4,000.
3. Elizabeth Crescent/Townhead Street, Cumnock – upgrading of sites to be agreed. Original estimated cost up to £4,000.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The remaining £6,040 from the Cumnock and Doon Valley Initiative allocated for the environmental improvement of the Former Co-op, Muirkirk site can be spent either on this site or on an alternative project as outlined in paragraph 4.2.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 If the owner of the Former Co-op, Muirkirk site is prepared to permit an environmental improvement of this site, a Section 75 Legal Agreement will require to be entered into by the owner, MEG, and the Council to ensure that the environmental improvements remain on site and are maintained for an appropriate period.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) note the progress made on the Cumnock Area Environmental Improvement projects;

- (b) agree that in the event that Phase 2 of the Environmental Improvement of the Former Co-op, Main Street/Glasgow Road, Muirkirk cannot proceed, that the remaining £6,040 from the Cumnock and Doon Valley Initiative be allocated to an alternative project as identified in paragraph 4.2.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

21 January 2001
(CMcK/MMM)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report by Director of Development Services to 25 February 1999, Cumnock Area Local Committee – “A Programme of Environmental Improvement Projects”.
2. Report by Director of Development Services to 30 September 1999 Cumnock Area Local Committee – “Cumnock Area Environmental Improvement Projects”.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above papers please contact Colin McKee on 01563 576759.

AGENDA