

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 30 JANUARY 2003

**FUNDING OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A
SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME BASED IN KILMARNOCK**

Report by Director of Development Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of the work undertaken to implement the funding of a feasibility study for a Shopmobility Scheme based in Kilmarnock.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At the Development Services Committee on 6 June 2000, it was agreed a feasibility study would be undertaken regarding Shopmobility in Kilmarnock, and that the findings of this study be progressed.

3 FEASIBILITY STUDY FINDINGS

- 3.1** The study found that:-

- A Shopmobility Scheme was essential within Kilmarnock town centre;
- That premises would need to be centrally located;
- That a company limited by guarantee should be formed;
- That continued liason with disability organisations was necessary;
- That application to the National Lottery be made.

4 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 4.1** A fully constituted Steering Group has been formed comprising members of Kilmarnock Forum on Disability, Cumnock Forum on Disability, and the Access Panel and Elderly Forum, chaired by Councillor W Menzies. It is the intention of this group to form a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.
- 4.2** Costings are currently being collated in order that a National Lottery Application can be made.
- 4.3** Advice and guidance has been given by the National Federation of Shopmobility Schemes.

5 PREMISES

5.1 The feasibility study recommended use of premises within Kilmarnock Bus Station. Unfortunately, these premises are too small to accommodate the proposed scheme and additional storage space would be required elsewhere.

5.2 Alternative premises at 24 The Foregate, Kilmarnock are being investigated as an option. This is a large shop unit with ample space for office requirements and storage.

5.3 East Ayrshire Council's Homes and Technical Services Department are currently drawing up plans and providing costings for alterations.

6 SUMMARY

6.1 The Steering Group will:-

- continue to meet with officers and progress the formation of a company limited by guarantee;
- submit a bid to the National Lottery for 3 years Capital and Revenue funding; and
- continue to encourage individuals who have an interest to become involved with a view to being appointed Directors of the scheme.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that:-

- (a) Local Committee Members, with a personal interest in Shopmobility, or who would wish to act on behalf of any individual, should contact Council Officers for more information; and
- (b) The Committee note the content of this report.

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Director of Development Services
SC/SM/MB
15 January 2003

BACKGROUND PAPERS – Nil

For further information on this report, please contact Kerr Chalmers (Tel: 01563 555715), or Sandra Marshall (Tel: 01563 554607).

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