

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 18 DECEMBER 2001

WEST OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Report by the Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the performance of the West of Scotland Archaeology Services (WoSAS) in the financial year 2000/01, and to report on the budgetary position in terms of the Code of Practice on Funding External Bodies, Following the Public Pound.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The WoSAS was formed in 1996 to provide archaeological advice to participating Councils in the former Strathclyde Regional Council area and to West of Scotland Water. It enables the Councils' to discharge their duties under NPPG5 (Archaeology and Planning), and to access a maintained Sites and Monuments record.
- 2.2 A report outlining funding proposals from 2000/01 up to 2003/04 was approved by Development Services Committee on 21 November 2000.

3. WORK ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3.1 WoSAS have prepared an annual report detailing the activities of the service for the financial year 2000/01. Full copies of the annual report have been placed in members' lounges for information.
- 3.2 The table below summaries the service received by East Ayrshire in the past financial year. For comparative purposes the figures for 1999/2000 are also included.

East Ayrshire Council	2000/01	1999/00
• Total Planning applications raising potential archaeology issues	49	35
- of these archaeological assessment/evaluation prior to determination	5	4
- of these negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	4	4
- archaeological watching brief condition required	7	4
- no issue/no action possible/necessary	28	21
• Consultation in respect of planning and/or archaeological matters, or public information	51	21

3.3 In addition to the above, WoSAS provided detailed comment, or work on the following:

- Indicative Forestry Strategy, being produced by the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team
- The archaeological data base for the three Ayrshire Councils.

4 FUNDING

4.1 There is a surplus carried forward to financial year 2001/02 of £32,538. This surplus will be utilised in future year's budgets, to allow increases in Council contributions to be capped at 2% per financial year until 2005. On this basis East Ayrshire Council will be required to contribute the following:-

2001/02	£11,000
2002/03	£11,220
2003/04	£11,444

WoSAS are seeking an in principle commitment to funding for 2004/05, again at a 2% increase, which would result in a contribution from East Ayrshire of £11,673.

4.2 The estimated surplus to be carried forward from the financial year 2004/05 is £7390. Unless key decisions are taken to address the funding issue WoSAS would be unable to operate beyond 2005. Accordingly, a special Management Sub-Group of officers has been convened to chart a way forward. The meeting will examine the potential for revised staffing arrangements within WoSAS following from the recent resignation of one of the Archaeologists. A further report will be prepared for Development Services in due course once a way forward can be identified that overcomes the funding issue.

5. PERSONNEL / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None directly arising from this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 East Ayrshire's contribution will be maintained at £11,000 for 2001/02, increasing by 2% each year until 2003/04 when it will be £11,444. A further 2% increase is sought for 2004/05 (£11,673).

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) note that WoSWA continues to provide a valued service
- ii) note the previous agreement to maintain a 2% increase up until 2003/2004 and to agree in principle subject to future Council budget decisions to a contribution of £11,673 for the financial year 2004/05
- iii) note that the Council's funding agreement beyond April 2005 be reviewed subject to WoSAS Management Sub-Group findings.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. **Annual Report of the West of Scotland Archaeology Services 2000/01.**
2. **Report to Development Services Committee, 15 March 2000, West of Scotland Archaeology Service: Business Review**
3. **Report to Development Services Committee, 21 November 2000, West of Scotland Archaeology Services: Funding Issues.**

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Director of Development Services

AG/PM//IMB (FV)

6 December 2001

Implementation Officer: Alan Neish

AGENDA