

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE: 12 MARCH 2003**

### **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 2001/02, 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 2001/02 up to 2004/05 was approved by Development Services Committee on 18 December, 2001.

#### **3. WORK ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 3.1 WoSAS have prepared an annual report detailing the activities of the service for the financial year 2001/02. Full copies of the annual report are available as a background paper
- 3.2 Appendix 1 provides a summary of the service received by East Ayrshire in the past financial year. For comparative purposes the figures for 1999/2000 and 2000/01 are also included. The appendix highlights that an increasing number of planning applications involving archaeological or potential archaeological issues are being submitted.
- 3.3 In addition to the contribution of WoSAS to the planning application process it has continued to maintain and keep up to date the Council archaeological data base.

#### **4 FUNDING**

- 4.1 A surplus has been carried forward to financial year 2003/04 of £54,178. This surplus will be utilised in future years' budgets, to allow increases in Council contributions to be capped at 2% per financial year until 2006. On this basis East Ayrshire Council will be required to contribute the following:-

2003/04	£11,444
2004/05	£11,673

WoSAS are seeking an in principle commitment to funding for 2005/06, again at a 2% increase, which would result in a contribution from East Ayrshire of £11,907.

- 4.2 Approximately 75% of the running costs of WoSAS can be attributed to salaries. At present the Service is staffed by a manager and 3 archaeologists. There is no administrative support. Because operating expenses exceed income the most recent archaeologist was appointed on a temporary contract that runs until March 2005.
- 4.3 The trading surplus in the financial year 2004/05 is expected to be £34,600. This is sufficient to enable the service to operate under the existing staffing structure (if the temporary contract is extended by 1 year) for the financial year 2005/06. However, unless key decisions are taken to address the funding issues WoSAS will be unable to operate beyond March 2006 as the surplus carried forward to 2006/07 would be insufficient to meet the anticipated operating shortfall. A special Management Sub-Group of officers has been convened to chart a way forward. In particular, it will examine the potential for revised staffing arrangements. A further report will be prepared for Committee in due course once a way forward can be identified.

## **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 East Ayrshire's contribution will be £11,444 for 2003/04, increasing by 2% in 2004/05 when it will be £11,673. A further in principle 2% increase is sought for 2005/06 (£11,907).

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 **It is recommended that the Committee:-**

- i) note that WoSAS continues to provide a valued service**
- ii) note the previous agreement to maintain a 2% increase up until 2004/2005 and to agree in principle subject to future Council budget decisions to a contribution of £11,907 for the financial year 2005/06**

- iii) **note that the Council's funding agreement beyond April 2006 be reviewed subject to WoSAS Management Sub-Group findings.**

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**

24 February 2003 (KD/SA)

#### **List of Background Papers**

1. **Annual Report of the West of Scotland Archaeology Services 2001/02.**
2. **Report to Development Services Committee, 18 December 2001, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.**

**Implementation Officer: Alan Neish**



**APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY TABLE OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY WoSAS TO EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

East Ayrshire Council	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Total Planning Applications raising potential archaeology issues	35	49	56
• Refusal of application recommended	-	-	1
• Archaeological assessment /evaluation prior to determination	4	5	6
• Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	4	4	8
• Archaeological watching brief required	4	7	11
• Other condition (submission of mitigation strategy)	-	-	1
• No issue/action possible/ Necessary	21	28	27
• Not received	-	-	2
Other casework items	21	51	33