

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2003

### QUALITY OF LIFE FUNDING 2003/2004 to 2005/2006

#### Report by the Director of Development Services

## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend implementation arrangements for Quality of Life funded programmes for which Development Services is the lead committee.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting of 31 January 2003 the Council's Policy and Resources Committee agreed a submission to the Scottish Executive for expenditure programmes to be funded from Quality of Life allocations for 2003/2004 to 2005/2006. The submission also indicated committees which would be assigned responsibility for managing individual programmes. The submission emphasised, however, that most of the programmes would take into account corporate interests cutting across individual committee and departmental responsibilities, and would support the Council's key corporate policies and programmes. The expenditure lines remitted to the Development Services Committee are summarised in the attached schedule.
- 2.2 The Scottish Executive has now approved the Council's submission. This report makes recommendations on how the programme lines allocated to Development Services Committee should be managed.

## 3 PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION PROPOSALS

- 3.1 **Maintenance of prominent amenity areas:** This will be used to undertake regular maintenance of our environmental improvement schemes where maintenance has not been incorporated into service departments' core maintenance schedules. Maintenance will include a programmed and cyclical maintenance and also one off refurbishment. It is recommended that the Director of Development Services should be authorised to manage the programme on the basis of the following priorities:
- Prominent schemes in town and community centres
  - Schemes in the vicinity of visitor attractions
  - Schemes which have been developed through the integrated programmes for Restoring Communities currently being rolled out within regeneration areas

- Maintenance required to prevent safety hazards or nuisance to adjacent properties
- 3.2 Fund for Demolitions:** This will form an additional contribution to the fund approved by the Committee at its meeting of 13 March 2002. The fund is available to assist in progressing the demolition of prominent eyesore buildings. Funds from re-sale or subsequent development of sites will be credited back into the fund. Procedures for individual projects designed to ensure that no private gain accrues to proprietors. Initial projects have focused on Auchinleck Main Street. Current developments at Auchinleck include the demolition of one building with agreements in principle with owners for a further two buildings to be demolished over the next two months. A separate report is on the agenda of this Committee identifies prominent derelict buildings across the Council's area.
- 3.3 Glaisnock Shopping Centre Upgrade:** This is an addition to funds made available through the previous Quality of Life Programme. The Glaisnock Shopping Centre structure is owned by the Council. A schedule of upgrade measures will be agreed by the Director with the Town Centre Management Committee and the Local Members for Cumnock.
- 3.4 Safety Upgrade of Pedestrian Footbridges and Footways:** These funds will be used for upgrade of unadopted footpaths or footbridges or the introduction of new safer footbridges where there is a risk to the public. Individual projects will be submitted to the Committee for approval. It is recommended that in 2003/2004 funds are allocated to the construction of a separate footbridge alongside the existing road bridge over the Dunaskin Burn at Waterside on the A713. The A713 is a busy road. Traffic passes this point at high speeds. There is no separate footway across the road bridge which is regularly used by pedestrians from the adjacent community.
- 3.5 Improved Streetlighting:** The Committee's core capital programme for streetlighting is entirely committed towards essential replacement of existing streetlighting equipment which has reached the end of its useful life or requires replacement to complement cable undergrounding or 5<sup>th</sup> core cable replacement by Scottish Power. No funds are available through mainstream programmes for enhancement of streetlighting or extension into areas not currently benefiting from streetlighting.
- 3.6** The Committee has funded improvement in the quality of streetlighting through Better Neighbourhood Services funding and Public Transport Fund programmes. The introduction of new brighter lights has been recognised nationally as making a major contribution to the safety of streets and the reduction of crime.
- 3.7** It is recommended that the Director, in consultation with other Directors, is authorised to draw up a list of projects to be implemented during the course of the current year. Priority will be given to schemes which form part of an integrated programme of community safety measures. The views of the police will be sought on locations where there is a recognised personal safety issue.

- 3.8 Road safety improvements:** It is recommended that half the funds available should be allocated to the route action plans approved by the Council at its meeting of 12 March 2003. This report recommended that priority should be given to rolling out route action plans over a number of years on the A Class roads within the Council's area (A70, A71, A713, A719, A735, A759). The previous report to the Committee contained an analysis of recent road accident statistics showing that a significant proportion of the accidents involving fatalities or serious injuries were occurring on these principal routes between communities.
- 3.9** A report will be submitted to a future Committee reviewing progress in introducing traffic calming and 20s plenty schemes within communities across East Ayrshire and recommending a further phase of projects to be funded through these additional funds.
- 3.10 Replacement of bus shelters:** The provision and maintenance of bus service infrastructure is an important part of the overall policy to promote the use of public transport. There are 665 bus stops in East Ayrshire of which 248 have shelters, 37 of which are provided by a private advertising company at no cost to the Council. Some new shelters are also being provided through the Public Transport Fund on the Quality Bus Corridors. However, there are a number of locations outwith these routes where shelters are requested by the travelling public or elected members or where older shelters at the end of their useful life are in need of replacement. This allocation would enable the current demand to be satisfied.

#### **4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

#### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** The funding for the projects has been approved through the additional funding allocated by the Scottish Executive for the Council's Quality of Life programme. As far as possible, all projects will be linked to complementary sources of funding.

#### **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Committee approves the application of the additional funding to projects as set out in Section 3 above.

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

**9 May 2003  
SC/JR**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil**

For further information on the content of this report, contact Stephen Chorley,  
Director of Development Services, on 01563 576011

**Implementation Officer: Stephen Chorley**

**TABLE  
IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT**

Activity	2003/2004	2004/2005 £000	2005/2006 £000	Departmental interests	Key outcomes	Linked initiatives
Upgrade maintenance of prominent amenity areas and previously improved sites	25	50	50	Development Services, HATS, Community Services	Improved upkeep of open and public spaces. Enhanced visual amenity especially around heritage features	Social Inclusion Better Neighbourhood Services Fund Anti-crime and vandalism measures Town centre regeneration
Revolving fund for demolitions and site improvements	80	120	90	Development Services Community Services	Improved environment within local communities	Social Inclusion Better Neighbourhood Services Fund Anti-crime and vandalism measures Town centre regeneration
Glaisnock Shopping Centre Upgrade	20	30	-	Development Services	Regenerated town centre facilities	Social Inclusion Better Neighbourhood Services Fund Town Centre regeneration
Safety upgrades of pedestrian footbridges and footways	20	20	20	Development Services HATS Community Services	Improved pedestrian safety	'20s plenty' Better Neighbourhood Services Fund Pedestrian safety
Improved lighting including streets, road safety hazards, CCTV installations and public buildings and spaces including car parks	100	100	150	Development Services HATS Community Services Educational and Social Services	Improved streetlighting and road safety	Social Inclusion Better Neighbourhood Services Fund '20s plenty' Community safety strategy
Road safety repairs, improvements, marking upgrades and traffic calming including '20s plenty'	110	123	200	Development Services Community Services	Improved road safety	Social Inclusion/Better Neighbourhood Services Fund '20s plenty' Young People's pedestrian training
Replacement of unsatisfactory bus shelters	14	-	-	Development Services	Improved impact on the environment	Social Inclusion Anti-vandalism programmes