

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 21 OCTOBER 2003

EUROPEAN FUNDING

Report by Director of Development Services.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the committee of the current position regarding the submission of European Funding applications from April 2003 – September 2003.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 European funding has provided an important source of finance for the Council and its partners in the delivery of training and employment projects and projects which strengthen and maintain economic growth. The European Structural Funds remain the main source of EU support for Scotland and the current programme rules apply from 2000 to 2006.
- 2.3 In an effort to increase the amount of European funding for East Ayrshire projects, the Senior Management Team formally remitted to Economic Development Division the corporate responsibility for providing Council wide European funding advice and guidance. The economic development team has encouraged and supported officers from other Departments to fully explore the opportunities provided by European funds and a range of new projects have been identified and are detailed below.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The attached tables show that £2.1m was approved for Council projects from the current Objective 2 and 3 programmes up to February 2003. A further £4.0m has been approved since. Applications have been submitted for a further £2.7m for a range of environmental, tourism, youth and business development projects.
- 3.2 A brief description of the projects is provided in an Annex.

4 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising directly from this report. The availability of grant funding for individual projects is subject to separate reporting to this and other Committees.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1** It is recommended that the Committee note the substantial European funding for East Ayrshire Council projects achieved from the current Objective 2 and 3 Programmes.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

TM/RP/CF
24 September 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS.

- 1 European Funding – Policy & Resources Committee, 20 February 2003.

For further information on the contents of this report contact Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development on 01563 576142.

Implementation officer: Tom Merry.

EUROPEAN FUNDING APPLICATIONS FEBRUARY 2003.

Project	Funding Source	Total cost	EU Input
Conduit	Obj 3	389,127	172,095
Ayrshire Electronic Community	Obj 2	1,758,995	864,371
East Ayrshire Woodlands	Obj 2	364,294	154,497
Workforce training and employment	Obj 3	297,751	134,000
Jobrotation	Obj 3	367,551	165,397
BTTC	Obj 3	73,207	27,137
SIP Paths	Obj 2	3,201,901	490,000
Craft Ayrshire	Obj 2	193,822	83,722
Total		6,646,648	2,091,219

**EUROPEAN FUNDING APPLICATIONS
APPROVED OR SUBMITTED AS OF SEPTEMBER 2003**

Project	Funding Source	Total Cost	EU Input	
Conduit	Obj 3	470,921	211,914	Submitted
Workforce Training and Employment	Obj 3	333,394	150,000	Approved
JobRotation	Obj 3	404,410	180,926	Submitted
BTTC	Obj 3	55,090	19,640	Approved
Coalfield SIP Paths	Obj 2	3,201,901	1,574,133	Approved
Development Craft Ayrshire	Obj 2	191,856	90,678	Approved
Moorfield	Obj 2	3,324,225	1,611,725	Approved
Dynamic Marketing	Obj 3	107,000	48,150	Submitted
Dialogue Youth Unit	Obj 3	227,097	66,237	Submitted
Top of the town	Obj2	3,000,000	1,500,000	Submitted
SIP environmental	Obj 2	1,431,124	571,782	Approved
20 The Foregate	Obj 2	83,000	41,500	Submitted
IVRP Paths	Obj 2	188,865	94,432	Approved
West of Scotland Loan Fund*	Obj 2	1,000,000	500,000	Submitted
TOTAL		14,018,883	6,661,117	

* Note: total value of cost is £10,750,664 with an EU contribution of £500,000

ANNEX

Project	Description
Conduit	An Intermediate Labour Market programme providing 52 weeks training and work placement for approximately 36 unemployed people. Training is provided in SVQ II and it is proposed to pilot SVQ III.
Workforce Training and Employment	This project provides accredited training for childcare staff currently employed in the private and voluntary sectors. This will reduce the number of unqualified care workers.
JobRotation	This project will raise the skill levels of 120 employees in the private sector whilst providing training and work experience for 30 unemployed people who will cover the work of the employees released for training.
Business Training and Technology Centre	The centre is now managed by the CONDUIT programme and provides training and support in computer skills to 80 people. The centre also provides drop in facilities for local people to enhance their ICT skills.
Coalfields SIP Paths	This project will provide countryside access throughout the Coalfield area through a comprehensive range of river walks and footpaths.
Develop Craft Ayrshire	This project provides dedicated business support services for the craft sector within East, North and South Ayrshire.
Moorfield	This project will, in partnership with a private developer, de-contaminate and service the existing North Moorfield site, providing the opportunity of new and existing SME's to locate within the site.
Dynamic Marketing	This project provides accredited training in marketing, computer and business communication skills in conjunction with a work placement opportunity for 30 unemployed people in East and North Ayrshire over a 12 week period.
Dialogue Youth Unit	This is a pilot project that will provide signposting services for young people in the Coalfield area. It will create a portal site with support staff to provide enhanced opportunities for young people in training, employment and life skills information.
Top of the Town	This project will realise the potential of a key site within Kilmarnock town centre. It will reconfigure the existing one way system and improve pedestrian links to the bus and rail stations.
SIP Environmental	This project will undertake environmental restoration works on vacant/derelict sites within the Coalfield area. Through East Ayrshire Woodlands the project will provide training opportunities for unemployed SIP residents.
20 The Foregate	This project will convert an existing vacant ground floor retail unit into an ICT training suite that will increase the capacity of CONDUIT and provide extra training rooms for third sector organisations and others.
Irvine Valley Paths	This is a retrospective application for paths and access creation already undertaken in the Irvine Valley.
West of Scotland Loan Fund	This project will increase the supply of loan capital to new and existing SME's directly improving the business birth rate and growth potential of those supported.