

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE -8 JUNE 2000**

#### **COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE DEVELOPMENT -NEW OPPORTUNITY FUND BID**

##### **Report by Director of Education**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise members of the Education Committee of an opportunity to apply for funding through the New Opportunities Fund

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The New Opportunity Fund have allocated a total of £23 million to be awarded in Scotland over three years to facilitate community access to lifelong learning. The programme aims to encourage more adults into learning with a particular focus on improving access to learning opportunities through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
- 2.2 Bids are invited usually from partnerships including community groups, voluntary organisations and local authorities. All bids should show evidence of their relevance to community learning strategies.
- 2.3 The development of community based learning in East Ayrshire seeks to directly affect the regeneration of our communities and generally improve access to learning. East Ayrshire's commitment to the development of community learning is given in the Community Learning Strategy, presented to Policy and Resource Committee on 28 March 2000.
- 2.4 A large number of partners contribute to the development of community based learning and Information and Communication Technology including those who are eligible to attract external funding.

### **3. REPORT**

#### **3.1 Community Learning Centres in East Ayrshire**

The development of community learning centres in East Ayrshire is complementary to a number of current initiatives. The development of these initiatives will directly affect the regeneration of communities with particular regard to employment skills and training for work. In addition community

based learning can directly affect the self esteem for those individuals involved and further support investment in the lives of communities.

- 3.2 The development of Community Learning Centres has two dimensions. Firstly, the establishment of a new Community Learning Centre and secondly to increase access and learning opportunities through the development of satellite centres.
- 3.3 In order that community learning centres provide access to formal and informal learning using traditional and non traditional methods they should be established in places where people gather, to support learning as an enjoyable activity.
- 3.4 Services available through the development of Community Learning Centres will include:
- Information access to council services and access to the council's web pages;
  - Increased opportunity for consultation by the council with regards to its services;
  - Access to a range of online materials which will inform young people in their capacity as peer educators and improve their opportunities for participation in the democratic ;
  - Support to the integrated provision of school education, family support and health education. By adopting strategies which encourage young people and parents to learn together and separately to develop positive attitudes to learning;
  - Support to family learning where parents and children learn together as part of an enjoyable activity;
  - Post school provision for those 16-18 years old who have not accessed further or higher education or employment, to raise their skills level and to facilitate their achievement of full potential;
  - Community learning opportunities where individuals receive a basic grounding before entering the labour market;
  - Q Access to the full range of learning opportunities both online and through direct tutor provision; and
  - Access to advice and guidance on progression routes for adults
  - 3.5 The planned development would be for the establishment of three community learning centres, complimented by satellite centres. Each main facility would offer the full range of learning activities. In the satellite centres, limitations would only be to the numbers of people who could access ICT at any given time as the full range of services would be available through online access

#### 4 **THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES BID**

- 4.1 A bid for New Opportunities funding has been produced to develop a Learning Centre with ICT in Shortlees Community Education Centre. Shortlees Centre is situated in the same campus as the Primary and Nursery schools. The centre is open seven days per week, twelve hours each day. An Out of School Care project also operates within the primary school campus.
- 4.2 As partnership is such an integral feature of community based learning, there are a number of partners involved in the development of the bid and in developing the wider vision for community based learning.
- 4.3 The bid to develop a community learning centre in Shortlees has a total value over three years of £251,272, with the value of the project being £327,070. The bid includes capital costs of £50,000, which cannot exceed 20% of the total bid. The remainder of the bid being for staffing support for the learning experience, including childcare and technical support.
- 4.4 If successful, the Shortlees project would be funded by New Opportunities funding from January 2001 until December 2003. The bid explains that during the course of the project an advisory group would be established, part of whose responsibility it would be, to develop a business plan with partners which will include a funding strategy beyond 2003.
- 4.5 The Shortlees project will target those socially disadvantaged, unemployed and socially excluded using- strategies which include personal contact, negotiated learning, guidance opportunities and through close collaboration with school, family learning activity.
- 4.6 The facility will be accessible seven days per week, twelve hours each day. disabled access will be integral to the project and the project will work closely with the Disability Forum and IT department when purchasing equipment etc.
- 4.7 Partners involved in the development of the bid have included Ayrshire Electronic Community, Kilmarnock College and Shortlees Community Association
- 4.8 Full details of the project bid are available in the members library.

## **5 FINANCIAL REPORT**

- 5.1 The total expenditure is £327,070 and the request to New Opportunities funding is for £251,272. The balance being met by the partners, in kind. The bid had to be submitted by 5 May 2000 and this has been done, however the funding body have agreed that any subsequent amendment which may result from committee approval will be included.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial contributions from all partners are in kind. The implications for East Ayrshire Council are with regard to the heating lighting and caretaking costs of accommodating this project and office furniture excluding ICT.  
The total over three years being £16,000, which will be met from existing resources.

## **7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS -Nil**

## **8 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 This application is compatible with the Council's core values and the principles of participation and involvement through Social Inclusion.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- i) Agree the submission of the bid for funding to the New Opportunities Fund;
- ii) Ask the Director of Education to advise the committee of the outcome of the application; and
- iii) Otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Education

25 May 2000

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Application for funding -copy available in members library
2. Community Learning Strategy -Policy and Resources Committee  
-28 March 2000

Members wishing further information should contact Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education, tel: (01563) 576104, or Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer, tel: (01563) 576126.

**Implementation Officer: Margaret Burnell**

**AGENDA**