

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 27 MAY 2003**

**AYRSHIRE SPECIAL GAMES**

**Report by Director of Educational and Social Services**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek agreement on support for the Ayrshire Special Games.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 During 2002-2003 a partnership between the three Ayrshire local authorities and Ayrshire and Arran Health Board developed the concept of holding a sports event for children with special educational needs. The success of this event was such that it is now hoped to formalise arrangements through a joint charitable trust for which support is now sought.

**3. THE BENEFIT FOR CHILDREN**

- 3.1 The event was held in April at the National Sports Centre, Largs. In addition to participants from other local authorities children with special educational needs from East Ayrshire participated. All of the special schools and some mainstream schools sent delegations to the two-day event which covered primary and secondary age groups.
- 3.2 In a very well-organised and supported programme children were able to participate in archery, indoor curling, indoor golf and other activities. Staff escorting the children were delighted with the highly inclusive nature of the event and the opportunities it gave to young people to participate in a high profile occasion and mix with their peers. The children themselves were very enthusiastic about the sports, and stated how much they had enjoyed themselves. Anyone who visited the occasion could not have failed to be impressed by the levels of participation, enjoyment and enthusiasm. Young people with severe mobility problems and complex disabilities were able to take part in all of the activities.

**4. THE PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 The Chief Executive of the Health Board has approached all three local authorities for a financial contribution to sustain this event. A steering group with representatives of all partners is being established. A contribution will allow East Ayrshire Council to have a voice in the management of the event and guarantee access for the children in our schools.

## **5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** A formal agreement has been developed which has been subject to scrutiny by Legal Services.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** A contribution of £4000 is sought. This will be met from the general resources available to support special educational needs.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members :

- (i) agree to a contribution of £4000 to the Ayrshire Special Games;
- (ii) agree that the Director of Educational and Social Services can review and authorise any future contributions to this event;
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/GRS  
11 May 2003

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools, (01563-576089).

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

**Implementation Officer: Graham Short**