

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2000

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY – EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND BID

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

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 European Social Funds as part of a partnership initiative with North and South Ayrshire Councils, four local colleges, three Councils for voluntary services and the local economic development agencies.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Funding

This European Fund, Objective 3 is a new fund from Europe offering opportunities for emerging initiatives. It has improved flexibility and offers multi year funding. It uses existing resources and staff time as match funding towards a programme that creates new resources and approaches. This project seeks to access funding under three measure headings i.e. capacity building, modernising the learning industry and new approaches to learning.

2.2 The Partnership

The ownership of the project is shared amongst the partners who include three local authorities, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, four further education colleges three councils for voluntary services and the local economic development agency. By working together it is possible to maximise collective resources while pursuing additional funding to meet local needs. Production of the bid is being led by Kilmarnock College.

- 2.3 Capacity building through lifelong learning is the process that links the partners and is complementary to other measures in place. By using new and innovative approaches in learning it is possible to meet the challenges of the new agenda of social inclusion, lifelong learning and active citizenship.

3. REPORT

3.1 The Bid – Working Title – Ayrshire Builds Capacity (ABC)

The project seeks funding for three aspects suitable for support through European Objective 3 funding.

3.1.1 Capacity Building

Through the assessment of the learning needs of the community and voluntary sector and actively targeting them, the project seeks to effect change in the capacity of communities. It will complement and bring additionality to the development of learning opportunities for beneficiary groups and their ability to deliver and sustain effective support to the community and voluntary sector. In seeking to improve the ability of the community sector, it will increase access to funding and to manage social inclusion issues more effectively. The bid seeks to develop new tools, methodologies, support materials and systems to address capacity building needs in a strategic and qualitative way.

New resources will include project manager, participants costs for childcare and travel etc, tutor costs administration evaluation recruitment etc.

Project value	£216,032
ESF Value	£ 97,214
Match Funding	£118,018
East Ayrshire match value	£ 15,000

3.1.2 Modernising the Learning Industry

The project meets this aim of the fund through increasing the capacity and competency of trainers within the organisations who provide learning opportunities within the area. The project will develop appropriate learning tools that will empower beneficiaries to effectively deliver learning programmes to the community and voluntary sector.

New Resources include design technicians, tutor costs, trainers, learning materials

Project value	£213,800
ESF Value	£ 96,210
Match Funding	£117,590
East Ayrshire match value	£ 10,000

3.1.3 New approaches to Learning.

This funding aim is targeted through innovation and creativity which develops new approaches to learning. It is anticipated that new systems will be created for on line learning materials, a community skills bank, organisational learning plans, learning progression portfolios and a learning resource centre. Through the development of this new system and structure a new way of learning will be created with the opportunity to engage with the community in new and innovative way. It is complementary to the National Grid for Learning and the approaches of the Scottish University for Industry as well as reflecting the Community Learning Strategy for East Ayrshire and the developing Community Learning Plans.

New Resources include development worker, online design costs, learning materials and equipment and ICT software.

Project value	£126,630
ESF value	£ 56,983
Match Funding	£ 69,647
East Ayrshire match value	£ 15,000

- 3.2** The bid has been submitted, and while East Ayrshire has been involved throughout the development of the bid there has been no financial commitment made to the future of the bid. The bid currently reflects the level of resources in place in East Ayrshire for community learning and capacity building generally.

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

- 4.1** The total expenditure is £556,462 and the request to the European Social Fund is for £250,407. The balance is met by partner contributions.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Financial contributions from partners may be in kind. The implications for East Ayrshire Council total £40,000 in this financial year and will be met from within existing budgets.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – Nil

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** The application, if successful, will complement the development of community learning plans and is compatible with the Community Learning Strategy for East Ayrshire.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) agree continuing participation in the bid for European Social Funding
- (ii) ask the Director of Educational and Social Services to advise the committee of the outcome of the application; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JM/AJ/SB
24 October 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 Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104, or Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer, Tel: (01563) 576126.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

AGENDA