

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 11 NOVEMBER 2003**

#### **QUALITY OF LIFE FUNDING – DAIRY TRUST, NEWMILNS**

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

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

- 1.1** To ask Members of the Education Committee to consider a request for funding from the Developing Access Information and Resources for Youth (DAIRY) Trust to support the development of a youth facility in Newmilns.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** In 2001 a survey was carried out by young people in the Newmilns area which identified the need for a dedicated youth facility. There is no existing facility in the area.
- 2.2** With funding from the East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative a group was established and with support from the Irvine Valley Regeneration group, Community Councils, Rotary Club and the Loudoun Valley Trust they leased an old dairy building in Newmilns which was opened 3 nights each week and was managed by a committee comprising of young people and adults.
- 2.3** When the lease came to an end the project continued to meet in the Morton Hall in Newmilns but this has proven to be unsatisfactory to the needs of the group due to the layout out of the building, the more limited access available and the lack of dedicated space.

### **3. PROPOSAL**

- 3.1** The DAIRY Project aims to enable young people to develop personal and social skills; involve young people in democracy and decision making; promote the social inclusion of young people; engage young people in new opportunities and challenging experiences; and encourage young people to lead healthy lifestyles.
- 3.2** The Trust are seeking funding to provide a purpose built building in Newmilns which will support the delivery of a programme for young people with the above aims.
- 3.3** The project is aimed at young people in the area aged between 12 and 25 years and the facility would be made available to other community groups in the Irvine Valley area.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** The total cost of the project is £469,160 over 3 years which includes building costs and running costs including staff and equipment. A previous award in principle was made from the local Capital Grants Scheme in financial year 2002/03, which was not taken up due to the overall financial package not being in place. In addition, the group previously received £10,000 from the North Social Inclusion Initiative to carry out a feasibility study. The group have requested funding of £80,000 from the Council towards the capital costs of the project. An application for funding is being submitted to the Community Fund in November. The CVO are assisting the group to source other funds.
- 4.2** A total budget of £50,000 in financial year 2003/4 exists for Quality of Life developments, for youth initiatives.
- 4.3** One other similar initiative to develop a dedicated facility for young people is currently being developed within the authority. No application for funding has been made to date.

#### **5. POLICY/LEGAL ISSUES**

- 5.1** The purposes of this initiative are compatible and complementary to the Children and Young Persons Service Plan and the Promoting Community Learning Theme of the Community Plan.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee approve an award of £30,000 subject to other funding bids being successful.

John Mulgrew  
 Director of Educational and Social Services  
 21 October 2003

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#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

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**