

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 19 SEPTEMBER 2000**

#### **NATIONAL GAELIC RESOURCE CENTRE**

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

### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1** To seek approval for participation in the activities of the National Gaelic Resource Centre.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The promotion of Gaelic Education has been a priority of successive governments. Through a series of measures East Ayrshire has developed provision in this important aspect of the national heritage. These measures include activities in Community Education, Gaelic Pre-5 provision and establishment of a Gaelic Class at Onthank Primary School.
- 2.2** The promotion of Gaelic by Education Authorities is a formal requirement of Section 5(2)(c) of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000.
- 2.3** The resources that are available to support Gaelic education are however variable across Scotland. Therefore, the only way that a national strategic approach can be taken is through a close association between education authorities

### **3. THE NATIONAL GAELIC RESOURCE CENTRE**

- 3.1** As a result of the co-operation between education authorities a formal Memorandum and Articles of Association for a National Gaelic Resource Centre has been issued. This would create a new company limited by guarantee. The Memorandum and Articles of Association have been scrutinised by Legal Services, and a copy is available in the Members' Lounge. In summary, a Board of Directors would be established with an individual membership from those authorities with a substantial Gaelic community such as Highland and the Western Isles. Other authorities such as East Ayrshire would be Associate Members and would between them elect 5 Directors.
- 3.2** By formally joining the National Gaelic Resource Centre, the Authority would have direct access to the materials that are being developed and which are available in Gaelic Education. This would directly benefit Gaelic learners within East Ayrshire. The Authority would also have a role in the

management of the Centre through the Board of Directors. This role would extend to the possibility of a Member of the Council being elected to a Directorship from among the Authorities qualified for Associate Membership of the Centre.

#### **4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** Membership would assist the Authority in fulfilling its legal obligations under the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** East Ayrshire would be required to make a financial contribution to the running of the National Gaelic Resource Centre. In practice, such a contribution is met by the grant given by the Scottish Executive to the Authority for Gaelic Education. There is therefore no wider impact on the education or Council budget.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** It is recommended that Members :
- (i) agree to East Ayrshire's participation in the National Gaelic Resource Centre;
  - (ii) agree to remit to the Council any decisions relating to Elected Member representation on the Board of Directors of the National Gaelic Resource Centre; and
  - (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/DL  
25 August 2000

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

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

1. Memorandum and Articles of association of the National Gaelic Resource Centre

**Implementation Officer: Graham Short**

**AGENDA**