

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE - 23 MAY 2001**

#### **APPOINTMENT TO COALFIELDS REGENERATION TRUST**

##### **Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources**

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider a request from the Scottish Executive to submit a nomination for appointment to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In February 1999, Calum MacDonald, the then Scottish Office Minister for Housing, Transport and European Affairs wrote to various organisation (which includes all Scottish Local Authorities whose administrative areas included coalfields) seeking nominations for Scottish representatives on the Board of the Trustees for the newly formed Coalfields Regeneration Trust.
- 2.2 At the Special Council meeting held on 4 March 1999 the Council agreed to nominate Peter Boyes, Midlothian Council for appointment to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.
- 2.3 Councillor Boyes was subsequently appointed to the Trust as Scottish Ministers Representative.

#### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The appointment of Scottish Ministers representative on the Board of the Trust is due for renewal in May of this year and Councillor Boyes has indicated that he wishes to stand down at this time.
- 3.2 The Scottish Executive have therefore written again to various organisations, including the Council to seek a nomination to replace Councillor Boyes.

#### **4. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRUST**

- 4.1 The Secretary of State announced on 25 January 1999 that Scotland would be included within the coverage of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust which was established to help former coal mining communities across Great Britain.
- 4.2 Since then, much progress has been made. From the formal launch of the Trust in Scotland in March 2000 many projects from across Scotland's former and current Coalfield communities are now benefiting from the allocation to the Trust from the Executive. The Trust has fulfilled its commitment to support a wide range of large and small, local and nationally based projects involved in revitalising communities affected by the decline in the coal mining industry in Scotland.

4.3 Although it currently receives its funding from the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly and Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust is an independent body. The Trust has been allocated £50million over 3 years, (from 1999/2000) £4.5million of which is ringfenced for Scotland. The current funding period ends in March 2002 and consideration of the future funding position of the Trust in Scotland is well under way.

4.4 The Coalfields Regeneration Trust has given out 90 awards valuing £3,943,363 since October 2000. The following statistics have been prepared on the East Ayrshire gains in relation to the other qualifying areas. It should be noted that one Scotland wide award has not been included in the figures below.

- East Ayrshire has received 13 awards, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of awards in Scotland, the highest of which was Midlothian with 16 awards.
- East Ayrshire has received 8% (£276k) of the total distribution in Scotland, this is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest allocation. Fife received the highest allocation of 17% (£566k), followed by Clackmannan at 16% (£555k), and Midlothian at 15% (£503k).

## 5. REQUIREMENT FOR NOMINATION

5.1 As Scottish Minister's nominee on the Board, the successful candidate will be expected to ensure the interests of Scottish Ministers are properly represented in the work of the Trust in Scotland. While the Scottish Executive does not wish to be overly descriptive in the skills and experience needed to carry out the work involved in this position, **a sound knowledge of Coalfields communities and the issues which affect them is essential.** In addition, a broad knowledge of, or experience in at least two of the following areas has been identified as highly desirable in a successful candidate:-

- Regeneration issues and initiatives including the Executive's social justice agenda;
- Industrial and community relations
- Marketing and public relations;
- Health and safety;
- Legal and finance issues;
- Working with the public, private and/or voluntary sector.

5.2 The successful candidate will be expected to form close links with the Trust's two development workers in Scotland based at the Trust's offices in Alloa.

5.3 The period of nomination to the Trust's Board as Scottish Minister Representative is up to 3 years initially with the possibility of re-appointment for a further period of not more than 3 years. As a registered charity and company limited by guarantee, Trustees are Directors of a company and are responsible to Companies House.

**5.4** The Board of Trustees currently meets eight times per year and decides on all policy matters for the Trust and all applications for grants. The Board is Chaired by Rt. Reverend Alan Morgan, Bishop of Sherwood. At full complement there are 15 Trustees of which two are from Scotland, 2 are from Wales and the remainder are from England.

**5.5** The Trust is based at its Headquarters in Doncaster and therefore a certain amount of travel will be involved to attend the regular Board meetings. As well as a commitment of 1 day every six weeks to attend Board meetings, the successful candidate may also choose to become involved in the various Committees operated by the Trust and these normally meet quarterly. The post is unpaid, although travel and subsistence is payable.

**5.6** The Scottish Executive has asked that any nominations are submitted to them not later than Friday 25 May 2001.

## **6. FINANCIAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - NIL**

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1** Any member or officer who accepts an appointment as a Director does so in a personal capacity and is personally accountable for his/her actions. All Directors owe a fiduciary duty and duties of skill and care to the company. A briefing note on the duties and responsibilities of Directors and Trustees is available from the Head of Administrative and Legal Services.

**7.2** Prior to accepting a position as Director of a company, members and officers must ensure that the company has adequate Directors and officers liability insurance cover.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**8.1** It is recommended:-

- (i) to consider submitting a nomination for appointment to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust; and
- (ii) that following any nomination, that it be remitted to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to liase with the nominated person with a view to submitting the nomination to the Scottish Executive by 25 May 2001.

Fiona Lees  
Depute Chief Executive/  
Director of Corporate Resources

9 May 2001  
JA/LR

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Letter dated 2 May 2001 from the Scottish Executive.

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper relative to this report should contact Julie Armstrong, Administrative Officer, on telephone number (01563) 576147. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources on telephone number (01563) 576109.

**AGENDA**