

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE – 31 JULY 2003

ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE ANNUAL SEMINAR, 2003 8 – 10 SEPTEMBER, BELFAST

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of the forthcoming Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Annual Seminar for 2003 and to make recommendations for Member attendance.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Formerly the Association of Direct Labour Organisations (ADLO), APSE works to assist its members in the ongoing implementation and development of best value, the wider modernisation agenda and the dissemination of best practice and innovation in direct service delivery. The Policy and Resources Committee of 10 April 2003 agreed to continue the Council's affiliation to APSE and agreed further that Councillor John Knapp be the Council's named representative.
- 2.2** APSE draws its membership from local authorities throughout the UK and this Council's membership entitles both Elected Members and Officers to a full range of services and information on the provision and improvement of high quality public services.

3. THE APSE ANNUAL SEMINAR 2003

- 3.1** APSE has recently contacted councils to advise that its Annual Seminar for 2003 is to be held at the Belfast Waterfront Hall from 8-10 September 2003. The theme of the seminar is "An Agenda for Excellence" and the programme explores the challenges raised for the future of public services, while at the same time showcasing excellence and innovation. As well as covering strategic theory, the seminar will provide examples of best practice and first hand experience of the problems that have to be overcome by front line service providers. Key challenges and policy initiatives will be considered and discussed, giving delegates the information they need to meet fully the evolving needs and aspirations of local communities.
- 3.2** The APSE Annual Service Awards will be presented at the Annual Seminar by Andy Kerr MSP, Minister for Finance and Public Services. The Committee may wish to note that this Council's Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP Van) has been successful in being one of only four finalists for this year's awards.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** As a member of APSE, the Council is entitled to a reduced delegate fee of £299 plus VAT per delegate. Travel and accommodation costs will be in addition to this.

5. POLICY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1** It is considered that the APSE Annual Seminar would be of benefit to the Council and the Committee is requested to consider attendance at the Seminar by an Elected Member.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

28 July 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. APSE Annual Seminar 2003, An Agenda for Excellence – seminar brochure.

Anyone wishing further information should contact Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources on Telephone (01563) 576019.