

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE - 18 DECEMBER 2002

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE LOCAL CAPITAL GRANTS SCHEME

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Committee approval for the re-prioritisation of the applications to the Scottish Executive for the Local Capital Grants Scheme.

2 THE DAIRY PROJECT

- 2.1 The Emergency Powers Committee of 21 November 2002 approved the Zone, Dalmellington and the New Cumnock Youth Centre as the Council's applications to the Scottish Executive for the Local Capital Grants Scheme for 2003/2004.
- 2.2 In March 2002, the Scottish Executive Local Capital Grants Scheme awarded £80,000 to the Dairy Project in respect of a new youth centre in Newmilns. Work has progressed since that date to prepare applications to the other major funders, namely Children in Need and the Community Fund.
- 2.3 The award made in March 2002 for the financial year 2002/2003 requires to be committed by 31st March 2003. The award is deemed committed when the contractor physically starts on site. Awards that are not committed require to be returned by the Department to the Treasury.
- 2.4 The DAIRY Project has a basic design outline. The next stages are as follows:
- Architect to complete Full Design Schedule
 - Tendering process
- 2.5 The cost of these stages is approximately £14,000. The group has expressed reluctance to use this money to commission the two phases above, until the outcome of the Community Fund application is known.
- 2.6 The major potential other funder in this project, The Community Fund, has stated that applicants should expect a 5 month turn around for a decision.
- 2.7 There is no indication at this stage whether the application will be successful, or whether it will be possible to have the application assessed for the March Committee meeting.

- 2.8 The funding sought from the Community Fund is £277k which will cover the following elements:
- £63k towards the building
 - £214k to cover 3 years revenue costs – full time project worker, sessional staff, service costs and development budgets.
- 2.9 SEERAD has indicated that the money from the DAIRY Project allocated in the financial year 2002/2003 could be spent on other live projects in the rest of Scotland, if it is returned to them.
- 2.10 SEERAD indicated that the DAIRY Project is a good project in their opinion and that they would accept the DAIRY Project into the Council's current submitted portfolio for 2003/2004.

3 LOCAL CAPITAL GRANTS SCHEME 2003/2004 (LCGS)

- 3.1 The date for submission of applications to the LCGS was 22 November 2002. Two submissions were made and prioritised by the Council through Emergency Powers Committee of 21 November 2002 as follows:
- 1) The Zone Youth Centre, Dalmellington
 - 2) New Cumnock Youth Centre
- 3.2 The recommendations will place the submitted applications into two categories:
- a) Approve in Principle (subject to confirmation of match-funding)
 - b) Place on Reserve List
- 3.3 SEERAD have verbally stated that there is a wish to fund all 'good' applications, regardless of expenditure or area. This could mean that more than one project could be successful, however there is no guarantee.
- 3.4 Applications which are placed on the Reserve List, may have a second chance of success if underspends become obvious in November 2003.

4 ISSUES

- 4.1 Given the Dairy Project's reluctance to go ahead with the pre-contract costs until the result of The Community Fund application is known, it would seem prudent to accept the offer from SEERAD to submit the project into the current bidding round for 2003/2004, and decline the offer made for 2002/2003.
- 4.2 However, this will place three projects into the 2003/2004 bidding round, and a decision requires to be made on the prioritisation.

5 PRIORITISATION

- 5.1 In the assessment process carried out in November 2002 to determine the prioritisation of the Zone and the New Cumnock Youth Centre, the defining criteria was the one which highlighted the difference in youth management experience of the applicants. This favoured the prioritisation of Bellsbank Adventure Playground.
- 5.2 Consideration now requires to be given to submitting to SEERAD the undernoted priorities for financial year 2003/04:
1. The Dairy Project
 2. The Zone
 3. New Cumnock Youth Initiative
- 5.3 In order to reprioritize as detailed in paragraph 5.2, the Dairy Project would require to withdraw from this round of funding and resubmit. The Dairy Project has agreed these actions

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Members of the Emergency Powers Committee:
- i) approve the reprioritised portfolio set out in paragraph 5.2 to be submitted to the Scottish Executive; and
 - ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JM/KG/SR
13 December 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

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