

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE - 9 OCTOBER 2003

BI-ANNUAL MEETINGS WITH THE DISABILITY FORUMS - FUNDING REQUEST - EUROPEAN YEAR OF DISABILITY CONFERENCE 2003

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to ask the Committee to consider an application for funding from the European Year of Disability Sub-Committee, a Sub-Committee of East Ayrshire's Disability Forums in respect of a Conference to be held within the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock on 28 October 2003.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Council meets twice yearly with both local Forums on Disability - Kilmarnock Forum on Disability and East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability.
- 2.2** At the meeting with the Forums held on 7 October 2002, Kilmarnock Forum on Disability requested the Council's support to mark the European Year of Disability in 2003. At this meeting it was agreed that any event to take place would be a joint one involving both Forums, and a Sub-Committee chaired by Councillor Menzies was established to discuss how the event could be marked, including discussions of possible methods of funding.
- 2.3** The Sub-Committee agreed that in order to mark the Year, a Conference be arranged where the theme would be "The Implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act". The event would target local businesses (the service providers) and also local voluntary sector organisations (the service users).
- 2.4** The Sub-Committee has continued to meet throughout 2003, with Conference arrangements being progressed towards the event which is to be held in the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock, on 28 October 2003.
- 2.5** Key speakers have been secured for the day, which will be Chaired by Councillor W Menzies. A copy of the Conference Programme is enclosed as an appendix to this report. Invitations have been issued to local businesses and voluntary organisations and to date the response has been encouraging with 50 companies from the local business sector and 30 voluntary organisations accepting invitations to attend.

3. FUNDING SITUATION

- 3.1** The Sub-Committee, in June 2003, made an application for funding to the Community Fund.

3.2 This application was refused with the Group only being notified of this decision on 24 September 2003. The reason for this refusal was that the Community Fund considered that it was the obligation of organisations themselves to meet any legal requirements they may face, on this occasion the Disability Discrimination Act when it comes into force. As the service providers identified for the course were unwilling to pay to attend it was judged that there was insufficient demand for the Conference.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Following the refusal of the funding application, the Sub-Committee reviewed the situation and it was agreed that due to the level of interest received from the local business community and voluntary sector and the success in securing such key speakers as Austin Lafferty of Lafferty Law Glasgow, together with the significant work committed to date by both Forum representatives and Officers of the Council, that the matter be submitted to the Council to establish whether funding could be made available in order to ensure the success of the Conference.

4.2 A revision of the costs has been carried out and reductions made where appropriate and the estimated cost is now £6,500. A package of funding could be put together from existing Council budgets including related elements of those held by the Department of Corporate Resources and Department of Development Services and the Policy and Resources Committee's grants budget.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Any support to the Conference would be consistent with the Council's policy in supporting social inclusion and the Council's Community Plan.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS - Nil.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Committee is asked:-

- (i) to consider the request from the European Year of Disability Sub-Committee to provide funding of £6,500 in order to hold a Conference at the Park Hotel on 28 October 2003, to mark the European Year of Disability; and
- (ii) to remit necessary arrangements to the Depute Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Chair of Social Inclusion.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/
Director of Corporate Resources

JM/FM

7 October 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Minutes of Meetings of the European Year of Disability Sub-Committee.
2. Letter dated 24 September 2003 from the Community Fund.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer on 01563 576139. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on 01563 576135.

Implementation Officer: Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer

APPENDIX

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION CONFERENCE: PROGRAMME ITINERARY

9.30am - 10am	Registration and coffee
10am	Welcome by Chair of Social Inclusion Partnership - Councillor William Menzies
10.05am - 10.15am	Provost Darnbrough, East Ayrshire Council - Opening Remarks
10.15am - 10.20am	Welcome by the Chair to Austin Lafferty
10.20am - 10.40am	Austin Lafferty of Lafferty Law Glasgow Talk on aspects of Disability Discrimination Legislation
10.40am - 10.50am	Short question and answer session by Austin Lafferty (10 min)
11.00am - 12.00pm	Four workshops covering the areas of: Sight , facilitated by the RNIB Hearing , facilitated by the RNID Mental Health , facilitated by the Morven Day Services Physical Disability , facilitated by the Kilmarnock Forum on Disability
12.00pm - 12.30pm	Summary and feedback from workshops
12.30pm - 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm -1.35pm	Conference reconvenes - Welcome by Chair to Peter Ingram Monk
1.35pm-2pm	Peter Ingram Monk of Scottish Disability Equality Forum talking on access
2pm - 3pm	Question and answer session - a panel drawn from the workshop providers await questions from assembled delegates
3pm	Closing remarks and evaluations. Tea and coffee