

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **HOUSING COMMITTEE – 23 MAY 2001**

#### **THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME**

##### **Joint Report by the Director of Homes and Technical Services and of the Director of Educational and Social Services**

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

- 1.1 To advise members of the funding to be allocated to the Council by the Scottish Executive over the next 3 years as part of the Supporting People Initiative.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 An initial report was submitted to both Housing and Social Work Committees in March this year setting out the policy background to the new initiative and the early steps being taken to implement the programme.
- 2.2 Since that report, details of the implementation funding being made available to the Council over the next three years have been received in a letter from the Scottish Executive, see Appendix A.

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 £46,000 has been allocated to East Ayrshire Council through our Revenue Support Grant for 2001/02. For 2002/03, £116,000 has been allocated and £186,000 for 2003/04.
- 3.2 These sums are to help cover the administrative costs of setting up new systems and procedures including the development of IT systems to support the programme.
- 3.3 It is clear that the volume of work to be done in order to meet the targets laid down under the Programme will require substantial resources to be dedicated to implementation. Existing resources are fully committed elsewhere in support of Council policies and other Executive initiatives. The Head of Homes, as the Council's lead officer, is therefore seeking to establish a post, initially on a fixed term three-year basis, to assist the implementation process and ensure that targets are met. This approach has already been taken by many other authorities and if approved the post will be referred to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee once consultations have taken place with the Head of Personnel.

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

4.1 There are no policy or legal implications.

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

5.1 If approved, this post will be funded from the additional allocation with no financial implications for existing budgets.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) note the terms of the correspondence received from the Scottish Executive;
- (ii) agree the establishment of a new post within Homes and Technical Services to facilitate the implementation of the Supporting People Initiative on a fixed term 3 year basis, subject to consultations with the Head of Personnel;
- (iii) agree to refer the matter to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise note the terms of the report.

James Lavery  
Director of Homes & Technical Services

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational & Social Services

(JC/GC)  
8 May 2001

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

For further information please contact Mr. Joseph Cassidy, Policy Manager, on 01563-576617

## APPENDIX A

Development Department  
Housing Division 3

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Mr David Montgomery  
Chief Executive  
East Ayrshire Council  
Council Headquarters  
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Our ref: GHV/1/5

29 March 2001

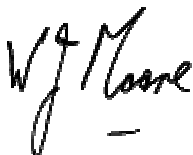
Dear Mr Montgomery

At the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) Supporting People conference on 26 February, Margaret Curran, Deputy Minister for Social Justice, announced a £15 million funding package over three years to help local authorities prepare for the introduction of the new Supporting People programme that will come on stream in April 2003. Specifically, the funding is intended to help cover the administrative costs of setting up new systems and procedures. This letter confirms the East Ayrshire Council share of that funding and arrangements for its payment.

The total amount of revenue funding available for local authorities for the three years up to the introduction of Supporting People in 2003 will be £2 million in 2001-02, £5 million in 2002-3 and £8 million in 2003-04. As agreed with COSLA, the formula used to determine each local authority's share of these amounts is based on population levels, using the Miscellaneous GAE distribution. In the case of East Ayrshire Council, this means that £46,000, £116,000 and £186,000 has been allocated for each of the aforementioned financial years.

The funding will be allocated through your Council's unencumbered Revenue Support Grant. This will be allocated through a redetermination for 2001-02 and will be included within the settlement totals for the following two years.

Yours sincerely



W J MOORE

**AGENDA**

Cc: Director of Finance  
Director of Housing  
Director of Social Work