

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**HOUSING COMMITTEE- 21 MAY 2003**

**QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVE**

**Report by Director of Homes and Technical Services**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To recommend implementation arrangements for Quality of Life funded programmes for which Housing is the Lead Committee.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the meeting of 31 January 2003, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed a submission to the Scottish Executive for expenditure programmes to be funded from Quality of Life allocations from 2003/2004 to 2005/2006. The submission indicated those Committees which would be assigned responsibility for managing individual programmes but recognised the need for joint working between services to ensure support for the Council's corporate policies and programmes. The programmes remitted to the Housing Committee are summarised in the attached schedule.

- 2.2 The Scottish Executive has now approved the Council's submission and this report makes recommendations on arrangements to implement those programmes assigned to the Housing Committee.

**3.0 PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 **Extension of Void Garden Maintenance Scheme:** The Quality of Life Funding will be used to begin the process of extending the void garden maintenance scheme throughout Council housing areas across East Ayrshire. The scheme is currently being piloted within the Better Neighbourhood Pathfinder areas, where it has already been seen to improve the quality of the local environment to the satisfaction of tenants and residents in the area. The project will be developed in consultation with colleagues in Community Services.

- 3.2 **Improvements to Lock-Up Sites:** Funding will be used to initiate a programme of works to improve the quality of lighting and road surfaces at lock-up sites held on the Housing Revenue Account. These works will improve the condition of the sites and reduce risk of injury/accidents to users. Appropriate consultation will be held with colleagues in Community Services and other services as required.

**3.3 Improvements to un-adopted Council paths and roads within communities:** Funding will be used to extend the programme of works to improve the condition of roads and paths within communities to improve environmental safety and reduce the risk of injury/accidents to users. Where possible, works will be carried out to the necessary specification which will allow the road or path to be adopted by Roads for future maintenance purposes. The programme will be developed in consultation with colleagues across the Council as required.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** The funding for the projects has been approved through the additional allocated by the Scottish Executive for the Council's Quality of Life Programme. Implementation of the proposals set out in this report will result in additional expenditure of £70,000 in 2003/2004, £80,000 in 2004/2005 and £80,000 in 2005/2006.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations contained herein.

#### **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1** It is recommended that members approve the application of the additional Quality of Life Funding to the projects set out in Section 3 of this report.

James Lavery  
**Director of Homes and Technical Services**  
May 2003

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

Nil

For further information please contact Chris McAleavey, Head of Homes on 01563 554278.

Implementation Officer: Chris McAleavey, Head of Homes

**SCHEDULE**

**QUALITY OF LIFE FUNDING**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>2003/04 £</b>	<b>2004/05 £</b>	<b>2005/06 £</b>	<b>Key Outcomes</b>	<b>Linked Initiatives</b>
Roll out of void garden maintenance pathfinder scheme	30	30	30	Improved upkeep of open spaces	BNSF, Environmental Initiatives
Lock-up site improvements	20	20	20	Improve estate management – removal of unsightly buildings	Environmental Improvements
Safety upgrades for un-adopted council paths and roads within communities	20	30	30	Improved road safety	BNFS
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>		