

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE - 5 FEBRUARY 2003

FUNDING OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME BASED IN KILMARNOCK

Report by Director of Development Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the work undertaken to implement the funding of a feasibility study for a Shopmobility Scheme based in Kilmarnock.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Development Services Committee on 6 June 2000, it was agreed a feasibility study would be undertaken regarding Shopmobility in Kilmarnock, and that the findings of this study be progressed.

3 FEASIBILITY STUDY FINDINGS

- 3.1 The study found that:-

- A Shopmobility Scheme was essential within Kilmarnock town centre;
- That premises would need to be centrally located;
- That a company limited by guarantee should be formed;
- That continued liaison with disability organisations was necessary;
- That application to the National Lottery be made.

4 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 4.1 A fully constituted Steering Group has been formed comprising members of Kilmarnock Forum on Disability, Cumnock Forum on Disability, and the Access Panel and Elderly Forum, chaired by Councillor W Menzies. It is the intention of this group to form a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.
- 4.2 Costings are currently being collated in order that a National Lottery Application can be made.
- 4.3 Advice and guidance has been given by the National Federation of Shopmobility Schemes.

5 PREMISES

- 5.1** The feasibility study recommended use of premises within Kilmarnock Bus Station. Unfortunately, these premises are too small to accommodate the proposed scheme and additional storage space would be required elsewhere.
- 5.2** Alternative premises at 24 The Foregate, Kilmarnock are being investigated as an option. This is a large shop unit with ample space for office requirements and storage.
- 5.3** East Ayrshire Council's Homes and Technical Services Department are currently drawing up plans and providing costings for alterations.

6 SUMMARY

6.1 The Steering Group will:-

- continue to meet with officers and progress the formation of a company limited by guarantee;
- submit a bid to the National Lottery for 3 years Capital and Revenue funding; and
- continue to encourage individuals who have an interest to become involved with a view to being appointed Directors of the scheme.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that:-

- (a) Local Committee Members, with a personal interest in Shopmobility, or who would wish to act on behalf of any individual, should contact Council Officers for more information; and
- (b) The Committee note the content of this report.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development
SC/SM/MB
15 January 2003

BACKGROUND PAPERS -Nil

For further information on this report, please contact Kerr Chalmers (Tel: 01563 555715), or Sandra Marshall (Tel: 01563 554607).

Implementation Officers: Kerr Chalmers and Sandra Marshall