

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**KILMARNOCK SOUTH LOCAL COMMITTEE – 23 May 2001**

**PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR USE OF 68 - 70 CAPRINGTON AVENUE, SHORTLEES, KILMARNOCK.**

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

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to further update members on the proposals under consideration for the future use of the vacant properties at 68/70 Caprington Avenue, Shortlees.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Following a review of services, the properties at 68/70 Caprington Avenue were declared surplus to requirements by Community Education in March 2000.
- 2.2 As the Local Housing Service is provided from the adjacent properties of 64/68 Caprington Avenue, the Director of Homes and Technical Services examined the possibility of including the vacant properties as part of the Local Housing Office.
- 2.3 Provisional plans were drawn up and costed on the basis of the entire building being refurbished to provide enhanced services in the area. In addition to improved office space and meeting resources it was hoped to improve the public counter and interviewing facilities. However, the potential costs of the project could not be met from available budgets and the scheme was deferred pending the outcome of the Council's bid for funding from the Scottish Executive under the terms of the new Better Neighbourhoods Initiative.

**3. BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND**

- 3.1 Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting held on 5 April 2001, agreed that proposals be prepared for using the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund within Shortlees/Riccarton and Northwest Kilmarnock for discussion with community planning partners, local Members, Community Representatives in Shortlees, Riccarton and Northwest, Kilmarnock and the Scottish Executive.
- 3.2 It was also agreed that a further detailed report be submitted to a future Policy and Resources Committee detailing how the funds would be used and the outcomes that would be secured in these communities subject to final Scottish Executive endorsement.

**3.3** No final decision on the future use of nos. 68/70 Caprington Avenue will be taken until the outcome of these discussions are known. However the initial refurbishment proposal is currently being reviewed and in the meantime the Department will continue to keep the properties secure.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** The cost of securing the properties can be contained within agreed budgets.

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**5.1** It is recommended that the committee:-

- (i) Note the contents of this report.

James Lavery  
Director of Homes and Technical Services

JP/CMcA/WT  
3 May 2001

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**NIL**

Members wishing further information should contact John Pickering, Area Housing Manager, Kilmarnock South and Irvine Valley Team, Tel: (01563 554118).

**AGENDA**