

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2002

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH WEST LEARNING CENTRE AND NORTH WEST YOUTH CENTRE

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the progress in the development of the North West Learning Centre and North West Youth Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Funding has been received from a number of sources in connection with this initiative.

Better Neighbourhood Services Funding (BNSF)	2002/2003	2003/2004
Youth Centre	£150,000	£150,000
North West Learning Centre	£ 50,000	£ 50,000
Modernising Government Fund	£ 65,000	NIL
Total	£265,000	£200,000

Recurring revenue for the next three years had also been awarded from the New Opportunities Fund of £172,696. £12,000 of this will be allocated to furniture and fittings for the new Learning Centre.

- 2.2 BNSF funding as detailed above has been received in connection with a project to redevelop/rebuild the North West Youth Centre to provide enhanced developmental educational and social activity for young people. The facility will benefit from close links with the Community Learning Centre and will maximise external funding opportunities to support development. Particular design attention will be paid to the creation of spaces for the development of a variety of art forms.
- 2.3 Funding has also been received from BNSF and from the New Opportunities Fund as detailed above to develop a Community Learning Centre within the North West of Kilmarnock. The Centre will benefit from enhanced *E community capacity* and promote *digital inclusion*. Other funding available for this project comes from the Modernising Government Fund.
- 2.4 Work is under way at present to obtain planning permission and building warrants. The new Youth Centre will be built adjacent to the present Community Education Centre and linked to it through the Learning Centre.

- 2.5 The land requires to be transferred from the Housing Revenue Account to Education. This will require approval from Committee and from the Scottish Executive. Approval from the Scottish Executive is critical before the contract can be finalised and building work can commence.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Plans have been drawn up in consultation with the representatives from the North West Youth Centre, The North West Community Council, Onthank Community Association, members of the Youth Centre and other community groups and individuals.
- 3.2 Representatives from Support to Communities have indicated that they will continue to liaise with the North West Youth Project and in particular with young people using the project over the design and operation of the centre. Visits to other youth projects in the West of Scotland will also be organised in order to look at good practice within similar projects.
- 3.3 Partners involved in the operation of the Learning Centre include Onthank Community Association and Kilmarnock College and regular reports are given to the North West Community Learning Plan Partnership Group on progress with the project. It is hoped to employ some staff early next year to begin work in North West of Kilmarnock with a view to promoting the work of the Learning Centre and to offer community learning programmes in North West Kilmarnock prior to the opening of the Learning Centre. The date for the employment of such staff is still subject to negotiation with the New Opportunities Fund.
- 3.4 It is hoped that the Learning Centre and Youth Centre will be operational by the Autumn of 2003.

4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL/POLICY/IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The transfer of land and planning permission and building warrants are being progressed at the present time.
- 4.2 Finance for the project is available as detailed in paragraph 2.1.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that Members :
- (i) note the contents of this report; and
 - (ii) require the Director of Educational and Social Services to keep the Local Committee informed of progress with the building of the Learning Centre and the Youth Centre.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

23 October 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. New Opportunities Fund offer of Grant – 1 May 2002.
2. Better Neighbourhood Services Fund – Implementation Programme North West Youth Centre – 17 April 2002.
3. Better Neighbourhood Services Fund – Implementation Programme North West Learning Centre – 17 April 2002.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel. (01563) 576104 or Anne Jackson, Principal Officer Support to Communities, Tel: (01563) 676126 or Alan Murray, Kilmarnock Area Team Leader, Support to Communities, Tel: (01563) 535913.

AGENDA