

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE - 16 SEPTEMBER 2003

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 advise Members of the Local Committee of the progress in the development of the North West Learning Centre and North West Youth Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Better Neighbourhood Services Funding (BNSF) 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 support the maximisation of 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.
- 2.2 Funding has also been received from BNSF and from the New Opportunities Fund 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.
- 2.3 The outer structure of the Youth Centre and the Learning Centre is well advanced. Work continues with the internal fitting and refurbishment of the building and it is hoped that the building will be available for use during the month of October.

3. OPERATION OF THE PROJECTS

- 3.1 It is anticipated that staff will be employed prior to the opening of the Learning Centre to survey needs and carry out promotional work in connection with the Learning Centre. The management committee of North West Youth Centre have held interviews for the post of Project Leader and it is hoped that an appointment will be made which will continue to develop the work of the North West Youth Project. This developmental work is crucial at this time prior to the transfer from the old Youth Project building to the new purpose built Youth Centre.
- 3.2 Community Learning and Development will continue to liaise with the North West Youth Project over the operation of the new building.

- 3.3 The Partnership group which will operate the Learning Centre includes Onthank Community Association, Kilmarnock College and East Ayrshire Council (represented by Community Learning and Development).
- 3.4 It is hoped that the Learning Centre and Youth Centre will be operational by late Autumn 2003.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 All operations will be funded from within the resources.

5. LEGAL /POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- (i) invite the Director of Educational and Social Services to inform the Local Committee of progress of the new Learning Centre and Youth Centre; and
- (ii) otherwise note the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services.

AM/CMcl

1st August 2003

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.
4. North West Local Committee Report - 13 November 2002 Development of North West Learning Centre and North West Youth Centre.
5. Better Neighbourhood Services Fund – briefing notes for elected members :

July 2002
December 2002
July 2003

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support on (01563) 576104, or Anne Jackson, Principal Officer Community Learning and Development on (01563) 576126 or Alan Murray, Kilmarnock Area Team Leader, Community Learning and Development on (01563) 535913.