

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2001**

### **NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES STEERING COMMITTEE – 4<sup>TH</sup> UK & IRISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR HAZARDS “IS THE CLIMATE CHANGING FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY”**

#### **Report by the Director of Community Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Sub-Committee of an invitation for the Council to be represented at a two-day seminar.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee has arranged a two-day seminar to consider whether the climate is changing for nuclear energy on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2001. The seminar will be held in City Hall Conference Centre, Cork, Ireland.
- 2.2 The speakers at the seminar include Mr Micheal Martin, Minister for Health; Ms Adi Roche, who has co-ordinated aid to the victims of the Chernobyl disaster for many years; Dr John Large, who has extensive international experience of nuclear risk analysis; and Mr Malcolm Grimston, joint author of a recently published study by the Royal Institute for International Affairs who will outline the debate which is likely to grow in intensity as concern about climate change impacts increase.

#### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The debate about the future of nuclear energy is opening up in Europe, particularly following the collapse of the Climate Change Convention negotiations in The Hague last November.
- 3.2 The conference provides a combination of policy and technical analyses around vitally important issues for the safety of the public and the protection of the environment. There will be a strong focus on what local governments can do to maintain and strengthen controls over sources of radioactivity with demonstrable or potential transboundary impacts.
- 3.3 Conference organisers aim to include speakers from international bodies, regulatory agencies, government departments and national and local governments. The conference will, therefore, be of particular interest to councillors and senior officers with responsibilities for public safety, environmental protection and sustainable development.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The cost of the conference is £100.00.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Nil.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The aims and objectives of the conference are consistent with those of the Council's Environmental Strategy.

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 The Council has been invited to be represented at a conference on "Is the Climate Changing for Nuclear Energy?" to be held on 29-30 March 2001 in Cork, Ireland and organised by the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 The Sub-Committee is invited to:-

- (i) consider the level of representation at the seminar; and
- (ii) otherwise note the report.

William Stafford  
**Director of Community Services**

18<sup>th</sup> January 2001

WS/JS

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

1. Communication from Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee dated 12 January 2001.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact William Stafford, Director of Community Services on (01563) 576023.

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**AGENDA**