

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE  
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2002**

**SCOTTISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE  
20-23 MAY 2002**

**Report by Director of Community Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To ask the Committee to consider attendance at the Scottish Library Association (SLA) Conference which is to be held in Peebles on 20-23 May 2002.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Scottish Library Association Conference is an annual conference which provides an opportunity for senior library service to explore and discuss the major issues facing library and information services in Scotland and in the UK. It is the only Scottish conference which brings together the senior managers from virtually all public and academic libraries and is a key event in the libraries calendar. It provides a strong programme addressing the major professional issues and the opportunity to share practice and strategy.

**3. CONFERENCE**

- 3.1 The conference programme is entitled "Bridging the Digital Divide" and brings together expertise from across the UK relevant to the rapidly changing environment in which library staff currently work. The programme includes speakers of national and international renown addressing issues at the heart of future service delivery. As well as an impressive array of speakers, the opportunity to network with professional librarians from public, private and academic libraries is invaluable.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The conference cost of £195 per delegate will be met from existing budgets, if approved.

**5. LEGAL/AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil.

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Attendance at this conference meets the “professional updating” criterion specified in senior library staff’s EAGER reviews.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Attendance at this conference is an important opportunity to ensure that East Ayrshire’s library service participates in the shaping of the future for libraries in Scotland and in the UK.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers attendance at the Scottish Library Association Conference.

William Stafford  
**Director of Community Services**

8<sup>th</sup> March 2002

WS/GC/AM

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

**Implementation Officer** – [john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**AGENDA**