

CEAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13 FEBRUARY 2002

HOMELESSNESS RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Report by the Director of Homes and Technical Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Director of Homes & Technical Services to commission a piece of homelessness research for a sum not exceeding £15,000 in accordance with Condition 10.2 of the Council's Standing Orders relating to contracts.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Part 1, Section 1 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 which came into effect on 1st October 2001 introduced a new duty on Local Authorities to produce a homelessness strategy. Each Local Authority must assess homelessness in their area and produce a strategy to prevent and alleviate homelessness.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire Council was allocated £72,600 by the Scottish Executive in October 2001 to spend in the current financial year. The guidance issued with the announcement of funding clearly stated that this initial allocation should primarily be used to fund the assessment of the extent and nature of homelessness in the area.
- 2.3 A large-scale baseline study into the nature and extent of homelessness was commissioned in the summer of 2001.
- 2.4 The Council's Housing Committee of 30th January 2002 approved as part of a wider package of spending proposals a spend of £5,000 to expand the initial study.
- 2.5 The research carried out has however indicated the need for further additional research across several issues which in turn will impact on the wider Council strategy. It is accordingly proposed that the sum of £5,000 reported to Committee on 30th January be increased to £15,000 with a corresponding variation in a no of other areas as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The timescale laid down by the Scottish Executive to spend the homeless strategy allocation prohibits the Council from following the formal tendering route, for any consultancy contracts over the value of £5,000.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the company who won the original contract after a formal tendering procedure and who did the original research project, be commissioned to carry out the additional work identified and that authority be granted to the Director in terms of section 10, (2) of the Council's Standing Orders on Contracts (Serial ,Two Stage and Negotiated Tenders and Existing Contracts). Sub-section (2) states that "where appropriate the Director/Head of Service considers that a tender should be negotiated with one person, he/she shall, before entering into negotiations, obtain approval of the appropriate committee, both in respect of the negotiation and of the person with whom the tender is to be negotiated.

4. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of this additional research will not exceed £15,000 and will be met from the current grant. There are no financial implications for the Housing Revenue Account.
- 4.2 The Director shall make arrangements to ensure value for money is obtained.
- 4.3 There are no legal implications arising directly from this Report..

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) approve the revised spending proposals contained within Appendix 1 to this Report ;
- (ii) authorise the Director of Homes and Technical Services to commission a piece of homelessness research for a sum not exceeding £15,000 in accordance with Condition 10.2 of the Council's Standing Orders relating to contracts as detailed in Para3.2 of this Report; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of the Report

James Lavery
Director of Homes and Technical Services
AC/JL/WT
11 February 2002

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Housing (Scotland) Act 2001
2. Housing Committee Paper on Homelessness Strategy 30th January 2002.

Members wishing further information on any of the above should contact Joseph Cassidy, Policy Manager, on 01563 576617

Implementation Officer: Joe Cassidy

AGENDA