

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2000

ALTERNATIVE USE OF COUNCIL PREMISES WITHIN SHORTLEES

Report by the Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- (i) propose an alternative use for the premises at 15 Shortlees Crescent, Shortlees, Kilmarnock currently housing the Community Health and Safer Environment Project (CHASE) and
- (ii) propose alternative support measures for the community initiatives currently assisted by CHASE.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 CHASE is an urban programme funded project operating within the Shortlees area of Kilmarnock. Their premises at 15 Shortlees Crescent is currently owned by East Ayrshire Council and is managed by the Social Work Department. The premises comprise a refurbished shop front with a large open office/meeting/resource space with separate kitchen and toilet facilities. The property is located centrally within a row of shops.

2.2 At its meeting of 25 February 2000 the Policy and Resources Committee agreed:

- (i) that the Council should not provide funding and that the project be terminated and;
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work work with the project's advisory committee to phase out the work of the project taking steps to relocate equipment at other Council establishments within the area and ensure that provision continues to be made through other agencies and Council departments for services currently offered by the project.

2.3 Following discussions between the advisory committee and the Council it was agreed that the office provides a focus for the community for informal and formal meetings and is well used by individuals and community groups and should therefore be retained.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1 In January 1999 the Kilmarnock Social Inclusion Team was established. The core team consists of a team leader and project officer and their remit

amongst others is to encourage and develop community participation. It is therefore proposed that from 3 April 2000 the two core members of the team be based within 15 Shortlees Crescent, Shortlees.

- 3.2** In order to provide continuity of support to the local initiatives currently supported through the office the following describes how this will be continued and developed:

INITIATIVE	FUTURE SUPPORT
Community Profile Group	Social Work
Driving Force (Young People)	Community Education
Chair Aerobics	Community Services
Fire Safety Group	Community Safety Officer
Advisory Group	Social Inclusion Team
Home Safety Lending Scheme	Social Work

- 3.3** Current ad-hoc community use will continue and access to the Internet for young people and to information and advice where appropriate will continue. Discussions will be undertaken with the local schools to consider the future development of ICT provision in the area.

- 3.4** At its meeting of 15 March 2000 the Kilmarnock South Local Committee supported these proposals for the alternative use of 15 Shortlees Crescent, Shortlees

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The overhead costs associated with this proposal are estimated at £6,000 per annum and it is recommended that this be made from the Social Inclusion budget for 2000/2001.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The location of the core social inclusion team members within the premises at 15 Shortlees Crescent, Shortlees is in accord with the Council's Decentralisation Policy and its social inclusion objectives.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approves the locating of the Kilmarnock Social Inclusion core team within the premises of 15 Shortlees Crescent, Shortlees
- (ii) approves the proposals to support the local initiatives contained within paragraph 3.2 and

- (iii) agrees the funding as contained within paragraph 4.1

David Montgomery
Chief Executive

TM/KM
13/3/2000

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Urban Programme – Final Evaluation Report (Social Work Department) – ref no. Uay 10/5/1/65/95**

For further information on the contents of this report please contact Tom Merry.
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AGENDA