

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 APRIL 2001**

#### **GRANT APPLICATION - ETHNIC MINORITY LAW CENTRE (EMLC)**

##### **Report by Director of Educational and Social Services**

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

- 1.1** To ask Members of the Policy & Resources Committee to consider a request for funding from the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The Ethnic Minorities Law Centre was set up in 1991 to address the unmet legal needs of ethnic minorities in certain parts of Glasgow. In 1997 the Centre received funding from the Scottish Office Ethnic Minorities Grant Scheme to extend its services into new areas both within and outwith Glasgow, including East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire. It has the overall aim of promoting racial equality through the provision of culturally sensitive legal advice, information and representation on a wide variety of issues, including racial discrimination, welfare rights, employment law, family law, housing law, debt advice and immigration. It also aims to increase knowledge and raise awareness of the law, legal rights and duties on these issues through active campaigning and consultation with organisations such as the Commission for Racial Equality, the legal profession and groups serving the different ethnic minority communities.
- 2.2** Minority ethnic communities in East Ayrshire have been supported by surgeries, held in Glasgow and given individual advice on immigration, racial discrimination and welfare issues. Many different nationalities have accessed services.
- 2.3** The Centre contributes to the Ethnic Minority Forum in East Ayrshire and their newsletter is circulated across Council services.

### **3. PROPOSAL**

- 3.1** The Centre proposes to continue work with Glasgow City, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and Argyll and Bute Councils. These Councils are within travelling distance of the Centre and have identified ethnic minority communities in their Council area.
- 3.2** The total cost of the service is £91,481 and the requested funding of £4,476 would be a pro rata contribution from East Ayrshire to allow continuation of the core service. The Council awarded the Law Centre £5,380 in 2000/2001.

**3.3** The Centre is managed by a Board of Directors and a representative from each funding authority will be invited to join the Board.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** A grant of £4,476 is requested for financial year 2001/2002.

**5. POLICY/LEGAL ISSUES**

**5.1** Supporting the grant application promotes the Councils commitment to equal opportunities.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1** It is recommended that Members of the Policy & Resources Committee:

- (i) agree a grant of £4,476 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre for financial year 2001/2002 subject to sufficient funding being agreed by the above; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/SB  
21 March 2001

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer, Tel: (01563) 576126.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR**

**AGENDA**