

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

18 APRIL 2002

WEST OF SCOTLAND RACIAL EQUALITY COUNCIL (WSREC) - APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATION GRANTS

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resource

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise the Policy and Resources Committee of a request for a grant of £5,628 by the West of Scotland Racial Equality Council (WSREC) and to recommend accordingly.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The West of Scotland Racial Equality Council (formerly West of Scotland Community Relations Council) was formed in 1971 to work towards the elimination of racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups. The WSREC work with and provide a service to the 12 local authorities within the area formerly covered by Strathclyde Regional Council.
- 2.2** WSREC chair meetings of the Unitary Authorities Racial Equality Forum which provides the opportunity for the 12 local authorities to network and share good practice and assist in the development of Best Practice, Equal Opportunities Strategies and Procedures, establishing links with ethnic minority groups and providing training and development opportunities.
- 2.3** WSREC make annual grant applications to the 12 unitary authorities within the West of Scotland area. East Ayrshire Council has provided annual grants to support the work of the WSREC since 1996 and last year approved a grant for £3,000. The WSREC have approached the Council for a 2002/2003 grant of £5,628 to cover salaries of administrative and clerical staff and general administration costs.

3. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** The provision of a grant to the WSREC will assist them to maintain staffing levels and ensure a continued and supporting service to East Ayrshire Council and other local authorities in developing their Equal Opportunities Strategies and Policies and in supporting the local community.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The Policy and Resources Committee currently holds a budget which is intended to support and develop organisations which cover the entirety of East Ayrshire and other contingency purpose.
- 4.2** In light of the contribution East Ayrshire Council has made in the past to WSREC and in view of the current constraints on the budget, it is considered appropriate to continue the core funding level at £3,000. This contribution would be comparable to grants made by other similar local authorities.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1** It is recommended that a grant of £3,000 be approved in order to encourage the continued development of the West of Scotland Racial Equality Council.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resource
16 March 2002

GH/CH

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter of application plus supporting material from the West of Scotland Racial Equality Council.

For further information on the content of this report contact Graham Haugh, Head of Personnel, telephone 01563 576092.

AGENDA