

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 10 APRIL 2003

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. 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 by direct contact with representative groups in East Ayrshire.
- 2.3 The Centre is a regular contributor to the Ethnic Minority Forum in East Ayrshire.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Centre proposes to continue its work for East Ayrshire to provide culturally sensitive legal advice for the residents of East Ayrshire.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A grant of £4,841 is requested for financial year 2003/2004. The Council awarded a grant of £4,476 last financial year. It is proposed that an award of £4,576 is made which includes an inflation uplift.

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 £4,576 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre for financial year 2003/2004 subject to funding from other appropriate local authorities; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/SB
21 March 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR