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**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – MARCH 2000**

**COMMUNITY LEARNING STRATEGY 2000-2003**

**Report by the Director of Education**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the Committee of the development of a Community Learning Strategy for East Ayrshire Council area. The Strategy requires to be submitted to the Scottish Executive by 31 March 2000.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The publication of the Scottish Executive report, Communities : Change through Learning was followed by the issue of Scottish Executive Circular 4/99. The Circular stated that all Scottish Local Authorities should produce a council wide Community Learning Strategy by March 2000. This process has been led by the Education Department specifically the Community Education Service.
- 2.2 The Scottish Executive established a National Training Programme, managed by Community Learning Scotland to support local authorities and their partners in the preparation of the Community Learning Strategy and to deliver the new agenda for Community Education.
- 2.3 The National Launch of the Training Programme took place in September 1999. This was followed by delivery of the Training Programme to Council departments and partner agencies in East Ayrshire in early October 1999.
- 2.4 A presentation of the Training Programme was made at a Seminar for elected members in mid October 1999.

**3. REPORT**

- 3.1 The Scottish Executive has clearly detailed the components of the Community Learning Strategy and the Strategy has been developed with partners and stakeholders, building on sound practice.
- 3.2 The Strategy recognises, in order that our communities are cohesive and ultimately sustainable, determined action to regenerate is required. Removing the barriers to learning, whether real or perceived, will encourage the most vulnerable to access learning opportunities available within our communities.

- 3.3** In East Ayrshire, previous good practice and partnership working has established much of the network required to produce the strategy. The assessment of need is a key element in promoting social inclusion, supported by the work of partners.
- 3.4** The Community Learning Strategy seeks to portray a broad spectrum of opportunities for learning. The more detailed study of information and priorities will be included in Community Learning Plans for the Council Area. Pilot areas for Community Learning Plans are required to produce their plans by October 2000. All areas and communities of interest who wish to develop Community Learning Plans will be invited to participate in a programme which will roll out beyond October 2000.
- 3.5** While it is anticipated that Community Learning Plans will be developed for all areas, the process is initiated in identified pilot areas. Within East Ayrshire three pilot areas have been identified, in consultation with partners, for the development of Community Learning Plans they are Darvel/Newmilns, North West Kilmarnock and New Cumnock. Plans for the three pilot areas will be developed with partners including the community sector and submitted to the Scottish Executive by October 2000.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** Council financial commitments from the Community Learning Strategy will be met from existing resources.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS– Nil**

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** Support to the development of the Community Learning Strategy is compatible with the Council's current strategies and the principles of participation and involvement through Social Inclusion and Lifelong Learning.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the members of Policy and Resources Committee:

- (i) approve the submission of the attached response as Appendix 1 to Scottish Executive; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew  
 Director of Education  
 3 March 2000

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Scottish Executive Circular No 4/99
2. Scottish Executive Report, Communities : Change Through Learning

Members wishing further information should contact Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education, tel: (01563) 576104, or Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer, tel: (01563) 576126

<b>AGENDA</b>
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