

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13th JUNE 2002

PROGRESS REPORT – CROSSHOUSE LOCAL OFFICE

Report by Director of Community Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To outline the progress made in the provision of a local office in Crosshouse.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report was submitted to the Decentralisation Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee of the 26th November 1996 outlining priority criteria for the development of information and advice services throughout East Ayrshire. The criteria included a range of indices, one of which was the commitment to provide information and advice offices in settlements above the population figure of 2000 residents. Crosshouse is the only remaining outlying community that meets the criteria mentioned in 2.1 above.

- 2.2 A number of options have been investigated since the decision to provide a local office in Crosshouse, including:

- (i) refurbishment of spare accommodation in the local butcher's shop;
- (ii) adaptation of the local library;
- (iii) new build on the Council owned site beside the library; and
- (iv) adaptation of the Community Education Centre and Nursery School.

Options (iii) and (iv) now appear to offer the best value for money.

- 2.3 Any design would include both Local Office and Library as the Library is located in leased premises and does not offer positive prospects for future development.

- 2.4 Contracting and Technical Services are currently completing designs and costing the options for consideration

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There would be an initial capital expenditure for construction costs and ongoing revenue expenditure for staffing and relief cover. At this stage the options are still being developed and therefore costs are not available at the

time of writing. Funding will require to be identified either from slippage across Capital budgets in the current financial year or as part of budget discussions in future years.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The provision of a local office in Crosshouse would meet the agreed criteria for such a service within the Council's Decentralisation Policy.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – Nil

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 There is an outstanding agreement to provide a local office in Crosshouse and options for the provision of the facility are currently being developed.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) re-affirm that, in principle, a local office be provided in Crosshouse;
- (ii) request the Director of Community Services to bring forward a further report giving detailed costings etc. of the preferred options in due course; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JS

22nd May 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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AGENDA