

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 29 NOVEMBER 2001

AYRSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS WOMEN

Report by Director of Development Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To recommend that the Council affiliates to the Ayrshire Association of Business Women.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Ayrshire Association of Business Women brings together business women throughout Ayrshire to exchange experience, provide informal mentoring and represent the interests of women in management in both private business and public sector organisations. They have around 70 members. They are a formally constituted voluntary organisation. The administration of the organisation is carried out by the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce.

3 RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL SERVICES

- 3.1** The recent review of small business support services carried out under the auspices of the Ayrshire Economic Forum identified a lack of information about the scope and limitations of the services provided by local authorities and other public agencies within the business community. Better information on services provided is being compiled by the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce. The Ayrshire Association of Business Women would provide a vehicle for dissemination of this information and a point of liaison for the Council in development its business support services.
- 3.2** Individual membership could be of benefit to women in management within Council departments.
- 3.3** It is proposed that the Council should affiliate to the organisation. Arrangements will be made to disseminate information on the organisation to assist women managers within the Council who may have an interest in joining as individuals. Consideration will be given to assisting in the organisation of events which would provide an opportunity for the Council to explain aspects of its services and respond to issues which may be raised by the Association.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Affiliation to the Association would support the Council's economic development priorities by providing a further mechanism for liaison with the business community, and would contribute to priorities to promote equal opportunities.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The affiliation fee would be covered by existing budgets falling within the responsibility of the Policy and Resources Committee.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Council affiliate to the Ayrshire Association of Business Women at an annual fee of £30.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

21 November 2001

SC/JR

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on the contents of this report please contact Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services, on 01563 576011.

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AGENDA