

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 2 OCTOBER 2003

BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUNDING – SHORTLEES NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INITIATIVE

Report by Director of Corporate Resources/Depute Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise Members of the Policy & Resources Committee of the outcome of local consultation regarding the proposed Neighbourhood Services Facility in Shortlees and to seek approval to align the £1.04m allocated for this development with the proposed PPP initiative to replace Shortlees Primary School, Nursery School and Community Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Reports have previously been presented to Committees regarding the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund programme. These are detailed in the list of background papers.

3. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

- 3.1** A consultation meeting with local residents in the Shortlees area took place on Wednesday 21 May 2003. Community representatives indicated that there should be two main priorities, namely a facility to support working with young people and secondly a flexible resource to promote the better integration of services between health and the local authority.
- 3.2** It was also agreed that this new resource and the funding associated with it should be aligned with the PPP initiative to replace the existing Shortlees Primary School, Shortlees Nursery School and Community Centre.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

- 4.1** It is proposed that the lead for the proposed neighbourhood centre is transferred to the Director of Educational & Social Services to ensure that the PPP initiative and the Shortlees Neighbourhood Centre are brought together.

This will allow for a multi-agency development on the one campus which will provide services for pre-school, school aged children, the community and young people. It will be the first of its kind in East Ayrshire and will offer tremendous opportunities in relation to integrated.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** In line with Scottish Executive guidance on the matter, underspend in a previous financial year can be carried forward into the following financial year. As such, the £1.04M referred to at paragraph 1.1 is carried forward into 2003/04, with the expectation that full expenditure will be incurred by 31 March 2006 or earlier.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The development will support the Council and its planning partners in meeting the strategic aims set out in the Community Plan and The Department of Educational and Social Services Strategic Plan.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** It is recommended that Members of the Policy & Resources Committee:
- (i) agree to the alignment of the £1.04m of Better Neighbourhood Services Fund for Shortlees neighbourhood facility with the proposed PPP initiative in Shortlees;
 - (ii) agree to the transfer for lead responsibility to the Director of Educational & Social Services; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive

KG/JP
3 September 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Emergency Powers Committee – 22 November 2001
Policy and Resources Committee – 3 October 2002
Policy and Resources Committee – 20 February 2003

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