

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 5 OCTOBER 2000

BAIRD INSTITUTE PHYSICAL ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the release of the funds of the Baird Institute Trust to provide for physical access improvements at the Baird Institute History Centre and Museum, Cumnock.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.2 The Baird Institute was opened in 1891 following a bequest by the late John Baird. It contained a museum recreation and reading rooms and was administered by trustees.
- 2.3 In 1972, the trustees transferred responsibility for the administration of the building and its collection to the local authority. Ownership was transferred from the Trust to the Local Authority in 1985. The institute now provides a cultural focus in the fields of local studies museum collections, visual art and archives.

3. ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

- 3.1 For some time it has been recognised that there is a physical access problem to the Institute. Those with a physical infirmity or disability as well as those with a pushchair etc. are faced with seven stairs to the entrance.
- 3.2 Following a request from the Director of Community Services the Technical Services section have produced a costed feasibility study for the provision of a new main entrance with ramped access.
- 3.3 Some initial consultation on the proposals has taken place with the Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel. These and other consultations will ensure that the principal beneficiaries of the improvements will have an input to the details of the project.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Baird Institute Trust fund stands at £20,000. The estimated total project cost is £24,700. The additional funding will be met from external sources and existing Community Services budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council required right to the Baird Institute Building and Baird Institute Trust fund in 1985 by virtue of a Disposition by the

sole surviving trustee of the John Baird Trust. The property transfer was subject to the Council administering the building and fund in accordance with the conditions of the Trust. The proposed physical access improvements are acceptable in terms of the trust conditions.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposals are consistent with existing corporate and leisure policies to provide equality of access and opportunity.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The release of the funds of the Baird Institute Trust would provide significant access improvements to the leisure, cultural and learning opportunities available at the Baird Institute.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) approves the release of the funds of the Baird Institute Trust to provide for physical access improvements at the Baird Institute; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/CJW/JY

13 September 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Costed feasibility study

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 574916 and ask for Charles Woodward

AGENDA

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