

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

5 OCTOBER 2000

SOCIAL INCLUSION CHALLENGE FUND

Report by the Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the approval of Committee for Social Inclusion Challenge Funding for three projects, details of which are contained within the body of the report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting of 4 May 2000 East Ayrshire Council's Policy and Resources Committee agreed that future bids to the Social Inclusion Challenge Fund should first be considered by the appropriate local committee prior to submission to the Strategic Partnership Group.

- 2.2 In line with this process the following project proposals have been considered by the appropriate local committees and their comments are as follows:

(i)	Irvine Valley Local Committee: Drugs & Alcohol Support Project	Supported
(ii)	Northern Area Local Committee: Drugs & Alcohol Support Project	Supported
(iii)	Kilmarnock Central Local Committee: Shopmobility	Supported
(iv)	Kilmarnock South Local Committee: Shopmobility Youth Shelter	Supported Supported
(v)	Kilmarnock North Local Committee: Shopmobility	Supported

- 2.3 The project proposals also received endorsement from the Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group meeting on 28 September 2000.

3. PROJECT PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The project proposals detailed below are now submitted for consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee

3.1.1 Drug & Alcohol Support Project : £7,000

Crime trends over the last 2 years show that while there have been reductions in housebreaking and vehicle crime in rural communities there has been an increase in drugs related offences.

The risks and problems attributed to inappropriate use of drugs and alcohol include:

- risk of crime taking place either through the use of the substance or through other activities arising therefrom and the attendant risk of acquiring a criminal record which may affect other life opportunities, particularly for young people
- risks to health
- knock -on effects for families
- knock -on effects for communities whether in terms of actual crime or fear of crime

In the Irvine Valley and the Northern Area there are issues relating to the up take of existing services which tend to be based in Kilmarnock. These relate to:

- awareness of the services
- access to services

In order to address these issues the following action is proposed:

- Production of posters and leaflets, for display in surgeries, libraries, community venues, etc., containing information on existing and proposed drugs and alcohol support services.
- A pilot outreach service to take support services to users, with problems or at risk, in the rural area.
- Area: Irvine Valley and the Northern Area.
- Finance requested:

Sessional worker(s), two days per week for one year	£6,000.00
Production of posters and leaflets	£1,000.00
Total Grant Requested	£7,000.00

The project has been developed with the involvement of the Bridge Project, the Ayrshire Council on Alcohol and ADAT (Alcohol and Drugs Action Team, which involves the Health Service). The grant will be administered through the Bridge Project and the Council on Alcohol.

3.1.2 Shopmobility Feasibility Study : £2,000

The proposal to establish a Shopmobility Scheme within Kilmarnock is currently being considered by a small working group comprising the Local Forum on Disability, Kilmarnock Town Centre Management Committee and

East Ayrshire Council. The established criteria for such a scheme are that Shopmobility Schemes should:

- be open to all people with mobility problems whether temporary or permanent, regardless of their place of residence;
- provide both manual and powered wheelchairs and powered scooters;
- have car parking available within 40 metres and provide parking for both holders and non-holders of orange badges who use the scheme; and
- operate for a period of at least 4 hours on normal shopping days excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays

To allow for the project to be established on a sound financial and operational base, a feasibility study is required. The study will report on all operational matters including:

- staffing and management issues;
- location;
- start up costs; and
- sustainability

The total cost of the feasibility study is £4,000. Two thousand pounds of which has been secured from East Ayrshire Council's Development Services Department leaving a balance of £2,000.

3.1.3 Shortlees Youth Shelter : £4,000

Service provision for young people and issues of youth disorder are included for priority action within the Kilmarnock South Social Inclusion Early Action Plan. A series of meetings has taken place regarding these issues and the proposal to seek funding to site a “youth shelter” within the area has been identified within the early action plan.

The shelter would provide a covered seating area with open sides and this type of initiative has proved effective in other areas throughout the country.

The total cost to purchase and install a shelter is £4,000.

The Youth shelter is phase one of a joint action plan prepared by Strathclyde Police, East Ayrshire Council Officers and the local community in order to tackle issues of youth disorder within the Shortlees area.

4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The allocation to the Social Inclusion Challenge Fund is £65,000 of which £21,000 has been utilised to date. The awards as detailed at section 3 can be met from the remaining existing Social Inclusion Challenge Fund budget.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The project proposals contained within this report are consistent with the principles of social inclusion.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that Committee approve the following Challenge Fund bids:

- i) Drugs & Alcohol Support Project - £7,000;
- ii) Shopmobility Feasibility Study - £2,000; and
- iii) Shortlees Youth Shelter - £4,000.

Fiona Lees
Director of Corporate Resources

TM/KM
26/9/2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

For further information on the contents of this report contact Tom Merry, Kilmarnock Social Inclusion Team Leader. Telephone 01563 524800

AGENDA