

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 28 MARCH 2000

WEST OF SCOTLAND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL (WSCRC) - APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATION GRANTS

Report by Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise the Policy and Resources Committee of a request for a grant of £5,305 by the West of Scotland Community Relations Council (WSCRC) and to recommend accordingly.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The West of Scotland Community Relations Council was formed in 1971 to work towards the elimination of racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups. The WSCRC work with and provide a service to the 12 local authorities within the area formerly covered by Strathclyde Regional Council.
- 2.2** WSCRC chair meetings of the Unitary Authorities Racial Equality Forum which provides the opportunity for the 12 local authorities to network and share good practice and assist in the development of Best Practice, Equal Opportunities Strategies and Procedures, establishing links with ethnic minority groups and providing training and development opportunities.
- 2.3** In the past year, WSCRC have appointed a Race Equality Officer to assist local authorities review internal arrangements for identifying and monitoring incidents of racial discrimination in service delivery. The Race Equality Officer visited East Ayrshire Council on 10 November 1999 and met with representatives from the Senior Management Team. As a result of the visit, the Council's Corporate complaints policy has been amended to incorporate complaints made on the grounds of discrimination.
- 2.4** WSCRC make annual grant applications to the 12 unitary authorities within the West of Scotland area. East Ayrshire Council has provided annual grants to support the work of the WSCRC since 1996 and last year approved a grant for £3,500. In addition the Council contributed £500 towards the WSCRC Calendar project. The WSCRC have approached the Council for a 2000/20001 grant of £5,305 to cover salaries of administrative and clerical staff and general administration costs.

3. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** The provision of a grant to the WSCRC will assist them to maintain staffing levels and ensure a continued and supporting service to East Ayrshire Council and other local authorities in developing their Equal Opportunities Strategies and Policies and in supporting the local community.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The Policy and Resources Committee currently holds a budget which is intended to support and develop organisations which cover the entirety of East Ayrshire and other contingency purpose.
- 4.2** In light of the contribution East Ayrshire Council has made in the past to WSCRC and in view of the current constraints on the budget, it is considered appropriate to limit the core funding this year to £3,000 and continue to pay a contribution to the WSCRC annual calendar competition. This contribution would be comparable to grants made by other similar local authorities and does not affect the viability of the WSCRC.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1** It is recommended that:

- (a) a grant of £3,000 be approved in order to encourage the continued development of the West of Scotland Community Relations Council; and
- (b) the Council continues to pay a contribution to the WSCRC annual calendar competition.

David Montgomery
Chief Executive

14 February 2000

GH/CH

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter of application plus supporting material from the West of Scotland Community Relations Council.

For further information on the content of this report contact Graham Haugh, Head of Personnel, telephone 01563 576092.

AGENDA