

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 9 APRIL 2002

DALSALLOCH SITE, AUCHINLECK : FUTURE PLANS

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Committee authority for proposed future use of the Dalsalloch site.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 During the night of 26/27 December 2001, a major fire completely destroyed the Social Work Office at Dalsalloch, Auchinleck.
- 2.2 Despite the seriousness of the situation, social work services to the public have been maintained throughout, initially from emergency alternative accommodation for the first few weeks. Since early January 2002, services have been established in interim accommodation in Cumnock, Auchinleck and Lugar, details of which were notified to all elected members by the Head of Social Work at that time.
- 2.3 In tandem with the effort to maintain service delivery, officers have been considering the future arrangements for use of the Dalsalloch site and for delivery of social work services in the south of the Council area.

3. PROPOSED FUTURE USE OF DALSALLOCH SITE

- 3.1 In considering future usage of the Dalsalloch site, officers have paid close attention to the views of a wide range of stakeholders. Emerging from that process, a consensus has formed around two broad themes:
- a clear desire to use the site for the provision of a social care facility;
 - a recognition that there is no persuasive case for re-creating a single base for all social work staff in the south of the Council's area.
- 3.2 Further detailed work is required to determine the exact form that any future use of the site would take. However, it is anticipated that the availability of the site will present opportunities to develop improved services following current service reviews, including Older People's Residential Services, Day Services for Adults with a Learning Disability.
- 3.3 The availability of the site for development also presents opportunities to extend further the Council's already well-developed partnership working approach with providers in the independent sector.

3.4 A further opportunity is also presented to take forward the Joint Future agenda, involving closer joint working between the Council and the Health Service in the provision of Community Care services, in particular for older people.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None of the proposed future options for use of the Dalsalloch site carries substantial policy implications for the Council, which already operates on a partnership model to provide added value services for the citizens of East Ayrshire.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Any re-development on the site would be carried out in accordance with the relevant planning and building control regulations. Any partnership working would be set in a proper contractual and service level agreement framework.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The primary financial implication for the Council relates to the terms of the final settlement with its insurers for its claims in respect of the fire. Officers are mindful of the need to ensure that the final settlement is maximised and to frame the plans for future use of the site in terms which facilitate that outcome.

6.2 Officers are working corporately to ensure that the service interests of Educational and Social Services and the financial interests of the Council as a whole are given proper attention.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Committee is requested to :

- a) approve in principle the proposed options for future use of the Dalsalloch site as set out in section 3 above;
- b) instruct the Director of Educational and Social Services, the Director of Finance and the Head of Administrative and Legal Services to finalise the insurance claims for the fire, in terms of section 6 above;
- c) note that a further report will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee with detailed options for future use of the Dalsalloch site;
- d) refer the report to Policy and Resources Committee, for its consideration;
- e) otherwise, note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
15 March 2002

For further information, please contact Stephen Moore, Head of Social Work (Tel. 6920)

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : STEPHEN MOORE, HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK

AGENDA