

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (EAST AYRSHIRE)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1998 AT 1730  
HOURS IN MEETING ROOM 1, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,  
KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Eric Jackson (Chair).

**ATTENDING:** Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Gwen Barker, Service Officer, Social Work Department; Arthur West, Service Manager Development, Social Work Department; Anne Fairbairn, Administrative Officer; Kate Gibson, Information and Advice Worker, Bellsbank Community Resource together with representatives from the Council of Voluntary Organisations (East Ayrshire), John Houston, George Nutman, Jimmy Murray, Iain Brown and Catherine Brown.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. The Minute of the previous meeting was submitted and approved.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

2. The following matters arose from the Minute.

##### **2.1 LOCAL VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

It was agreed to establish a short term Working Group, chaired by Gwen Barker to explore the possibilities of the Council of Voluntary Organisations submitting a Local Volunteer Development Agency application to Volunteer Development Scotland and East Ayrshire Council for funding. A date for the first meeting to be agreed.

##### **2.2 SINGLE GRANT FORMS**

Fiona Lees advised the meeting that the single grant application forms were available from Local Offices and Libraries and that these forms are currently available in a larger text. Further work is required to produce the grant form in different mediums.

In response to questions regarding the lack of an appeals procedure for grants the meeting was advised that when an application for funding was turned down a reason was given at the time of refusal, this does not however deter further applications.

The meeting heard that the new form was being well received by Voluntary Organisations and the Council offered to co-host a training session with the Council of Voluntary Organisations on community grants.

##### **2.3 LIAISON MEETING WITH EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

It was agreed to establish a structured cycle of meetings, with the next meeting taking place in February at a date to be confirmed.

#### **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

3. Gwen Barker then made a presentation regarding the Social Inclusion Partnership Programme which indicated that the Secretary of State for Scotland had announced

on 8 May 1998 that the twelve priority partnership areas designed in November 1996 would evolve into Social Inclusion Partnership (SIPs) and new social inclusion partnerships would be set up.

As a result of this, the Scottish Office on 28 July 1998 invited Councils and other Agencies to submit expressions of interest in the new Social Inclusion Partnership by 30 September 1998 which would encompass the Government's approach to Social Exclusion, namely co-ordination, prevention and innovation with the key characteristics of SIPs being that they focus on the most needy members of society; co-ordinate and fill gaps between existing programmes; promote social inclusion; and seek to prevent people from becoming socially excluded. It is intended that the new SIPs should begin operation in April 1999.

To ensure that issues of social exclusion are addressed and social inclusion promoted it is crucial that the public, private and voluntary sectors work together and it is proposed that a new Social Inclusion Partnership be established in East Ayrshire to ensure the commitment and participation of all relevant local partners; the development of a long term strategy which is challenging but achievable; and involvement of the local community at the heart of the process.

The Council of Voluntary Organisations was informed that a Social Inclusion Conference was planned for early December and that their participation would be appreciated.

#### **EAST AYRSHIRE VOLUNTEER POLICY - DEVELOPMENT**

4. The meeting heard that East Ayrshire Council was keen to develop a policy on volunteering and it was agreed:-
  - (i) to establish a Working Group to include Council Departments, the Council on Voluntary Organisations and the appropriate voluntary organisations;
  - (ii) that names be submitted to Gwen Barker within the next few days; and
  - (iii) that a meeting be convened at the earliest opportunity.

#### **SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

5. The meeting heard that the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations is currently making a bid to the European Social Fund and the Lottery. This funding would enable workers to be employed to support the Voluntary Sector to develop in targeted authorities including East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed to receive an update at the next meeting.

#### **COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS PROFILE**

6. The meeting heard that the Council of Voluntary Organisations were currently examining methods of raising the profile of the organisation and referred to methods of advertising which had been successfully employed by other Groups and Organisations within the area.

In addition, it was suggested that an information leaflet on the Council of Voluntary Organisations be prepared and distributed with all grant applications issued by the Council.

The meeting heard that the Information/Advice Worker had been meeting with Voluntary Groups and Organisations to raise the profile of the Council of Voluntary Organisations (East Ayrshire).

The meeting was advised that a special meeting would be held on Monday 9 November 1998 to arrange a series of mini conferences and it was suggested that social inclusion be submitted as an item for consideration at a future event.

The Council agreed to provide assistance to the Council of Voluntary Organisations in developing their mini conferences.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to provide the Council with a list of all the Groups and Organisations currently affiliated to the Council of Voluntary Organisations; and
- (ii) that the Council of Voluntary Organisations advertise through Local Offices and at their permanent base.

### **COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS PREMISES**

7. The meeting heard that the Council of Voluntary Organisations was currently awaiting a lease for Skerrington Farm, Cumnock to enable the organisation to establish a permanent base.

It was acknowledged that the leasing of these premises would also involve capital expenditure to allow access for people with a disability. It would also be the responsibility of the organisation to maintain the property throughout the period of the lease.

Fiona Lees indicated that the present Local Office premises at Muirkirk would shortly become vacant and suggested that the organisation explore the viability of obtaining these premises for their use.

It was agreed to arrange a visit to Muirkirk Local Office in the near future.

### **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

8. The meeting heard that in light of recent Scottish Office Initiatives including Social Inclusion it was agreed that the Partnership Agreement should be updated to reflect the Council of Voluntary Organisation's aims and objectives, a work programme and joint working arrangements with the Council.

It was agreed to convene a one-off meeting to review and develop the new Partnership Agreement.

The meeting terminated at 1845 hours.

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