

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the North Social Inclusion Board of the work undertaken to implement the recommendations of a feasibility study to establish a Shopmobility Scheme based in Kilmarnock.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the Development Services Committee on 6 June 2000, it was agreed a feasibility study would be undertaken regarding Shopmobility in Kilmarnock, and that the findings of this study be progressed. The North Social Inclusion Board agreed to part fund this study at its meeting of Thursday 25 January 2001.

**3 FEASIBILITY STUDY FINDINGS**

- 3.1 The study found that:-

- a Shopmobility Scheme was essential within Kilmarnock town centre;
- that premises would need to be centrally located;
- that a company limited by guarantee should be formed;
- that continued liaison with disability organisations was necessary;
- that application to the National Lottery be made.

**4 PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 4.1 A fully constituted Steering Group has been formed comprising members of Kilmarnock Forum on Disability, Cumnock Forum on Disability, and the Access Panel and representation from East Ayrshire Elderly Forum. This group is chaired by Councillor W Menzies. To drive forward this initiative it is the intention of this group to form a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.
- 4.2 Costings are currently being collated in order that a National Lottery Application can be made.
- 4.3 Advice and guidance has been given by the National Federation of Shopmobility Schemes.

## **5. PREMISES**

- 5.1 The feasibility study recommended use of premises within Kilmarnock Bus Station. Unfortunately, these premises are too small to accommodate the proposed scheme as additional storage space would be required elsewhere.
- 5.2 Alternative premises at 24 The Foregate, Kilmarnock are being investigated as an option. This is a large shop unit with ample space for office requirements and storage.
- 5.3 East Ayrshire Council's Homes and Technical Services Department are currently drawing up plans and providing costings for alterations.

## **6 SUMMARY**

- 6.1 The Steering Group will:-
- continue to meet with officers and progress the formation of a company limited by guarantee;
  - submit a bid to the National Lottery for 3 years Capital and Revenue funding; and
  - continue to encourage individuals who have an interest to become involved with a view to being appointed Directors of the scheme.

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 It is recommended that the North Social Inclusion Board:-
- (a) note the progress being made to establish a local shopmobility scheme; and
  - (b) otherwise note the content of the report.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services, East Ayrshire Council**  
**27 January 2003**