

**REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
– 8 SEPTEMBER 2003**

REPORT ON: LOCAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 582-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of amendments to the standard Partnership Agreement and associated Centre leasing/constitutional agreements as defined under Report No 280-2002 approved by the Neighbourhood Resources & Development Committee on 15 April 2002.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 notes that changes have been made to the standard Partnership Agreement (a copy of which is available for inspection in the Members' Lounge) and remits the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Head of Communities to keep these agreements under review and amend as appropriate.
- 2.2 extends existing arrangements for three year Partnership Agreements with the local management groups listed in the Appendix subject to ongoing monitoring and evaluation as to efficiency, economy and effectiveness in contributing to local/thematic community learning plans.
- 2.3 approves the extension of access to 25 years leasing to approved neighbourhood centers/complexes to assist Management Groups in accessing external funding (see Appendix).
- 2.4 extends consent to all Centre Management Groups to amend constitutions democratically under existing Title Examiner and Charity legislation, subject to consent by the Head of Communities where it refers directly to the content of the Partnership Agreement and its viability.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no additional budget implications for the Council in implementing the above arrangements. Approval of recommendation 2.3 will ease difficulties experienced by individual management groups in accessing sources of external finance.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Agenda 21 emphasises the importance of decisions being taken at a local level. The Department's support for the development of local management of centres is consistent with this policy objective.

5.0 EQUALITY OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The enhancing of the role of local management groups contributes towards the Council's aim "to build on informed, involved and active citizenship". The Partnership agreement commits the organisations involved to promote equalities and social inclusion.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Report No 280-2002 approved by the Neighbourhood Resources & Development Committee on 15 April 2002 recommended under para 2.2 the development of a further report on the review of existing Service Level Agreements content to strengthen the Council's obligations on organisations with reference to competence over governance.
- 6.2 The Committee were conscious that by allowing Centres to pilot a reduced veto role for the Council in connection with amendments to their constitutions there was a need to ensure adequate safeguards were included into the format of revised Service Level Agreements.
- 6.3 In addition, Charleston and Ardler Centre Management Groups were granted access to extended lease tenure to assist them access external finance. This arrangement to be monitored with a view to extending such authority to other centres.
- 6.4 For the purposes of clarity, this report is concerned only with the Council's Partnerships with locally managed centres which it funds. The Council has also entered into Service Level Agreements with a number of legally incorporated bodies, these are subject to a separate report.

7.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 7.1 The Department has worked closely with Dundee Association of Local Management Groups, Centre Managers and individual Management Groups to review the issues outlined in paras 6.1 to 6.3.
- 7.2 The Management Groups have appreciated the ongoing support of the Council and local members and are of the view that the proposed amendments to the Service Level Agreement retitled Partnership Agreement meet with their approval. The Depute Chief Executives have agreed the content of the Partnership Agreement.
- 7.3 In addition, a set of support notes has been compiled to clarify the meaning of terms referred to in the Partnership Agreement. A copy of these have been placed in the Members' Lounge.
- 7.4 The pilot centres, Ardler and Charleston, are currently negotiating with external funders over access to grant assistance and no adverse comment has been recorded over the revised leasing arrangements re grant criteria eligibility. Other centres have, however, been refused access to several sources of external finance due to their limited lease arrangements, ie three years. It is almost certain that this position would be alleviated by extending the 25 year lease arrangements throughout the Department.
- 7.5 The Department will continue to manage the operational delivery of Council and Department service priorities funded from the Council's core budget. Self funded social and leisure learning opportunities will be overseen by the local management groups in terms of fee levels, activity content and accommodation allocations.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The reviews have progressed in a spirit of joint co-operation to reach the recommendations proposed for the Council's decision under para 2.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executives (Finance) and (Support Services), and Dundee Association of Local Management Groups have been fully consulted in the development of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 The following background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.

Report No 30-2000, Content of Service Level Agreements

Report No 280-2002, Amendments to Model Constitution Charleston and Ardler Management Groups.

Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities

1 September 2003

APPENDIX to REPORT NO 582–2003

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

EXISTING SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS – COUNCIL FUNDED COMPLEXES

- Ardler Complex
- Charleston Neighbourhood Centre & Library
- Douglas Community & Library Centre
- Finmill Centre
- Kirkton Neighbourhood Centre & Library
- Menzieshill Neighbourhood Centre & Library