

To: Policy And Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee	Subject: Eastfield Community Action Group, Harthill
From: Chief Executive	
Date: 12 January 1999	Ref: CE012/004/012A

**1 Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee with details of the developments of the Eastfield Community Action Group and consider future funding needs of the project.

**2 Background**

2.1 At its meeting of 8 October 1997 the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee approved a request for financial assistance from the Eastfield Community Action Group and accordingly awarded a grant of £14,622 to fund the employment of a part-time development worker.

2.2 At its meeting of 26 August 1998 the Sub-Committee considered a progress report on the first six months noting that significant progress had been made and new and varied activities were now being provided to the residents of Eastfield.

**3 Project Development**

3.1 The Sub committee is reminded of the aims of the project, namely:

- a to support the Eastfield Community Action Group in the development of Eastfield Community Hall as a community resource;
- b augment the skills and expertise of the Management Committee through the provision of community development skills; and
- c develop a range of activities and services for the community of Eastfield which reflect local needs, interest and demand.

3.2 As detailed in the report of the 26 August a wide range of activities and services have been developed. Since this last report the Eastfield Community Action Group, through the Development Worker, have continued to enhance provision, particularly in the area of computer training, with introductory and accredited training courses now being provided. Links have been established with training providers including Community Education and Coatbridge College.

3.3 The demand for leisure activities has continued to be expressed and often when activities intended for adults are established a number of children are attending resulting in separate groups being established for the children. This is evidenced in arts and crafts and carpet bowling clubs.

#### **4 Evaluation**

- 4.1 In evaluating the project, it is interesting to consider the status of Eastfield Community Action prior to the project. Since 1993 the Group have worked steadily to improve the fabric of the hall to ensure that the community of Eastfield has access to a community facility. Through grant assistance and voluntary effort the hall was physically improved to a good standard. The Eastfield Community Action Group Management Committee had been unable to create new activities and services and clearly required community development support to do so. Establishing the development worker post was viewed by the Management Committee as a final attempt to create a focal point in Eastfield and provide social support to individuals and families in the area. The Management Committee clearly believed there was need for such development but were not equipped to make such developments.
- 4.2 It is without doubt that the project has been successful and progress and developments can be tracked since March 1998 when the development worker was appointed and indeed the accommodation within the building is struggling to cope with the increasing demand from local residents.

#### **5 Way Forward**

- 5.1 The Eastfield Community Action Group is presently preparing a bid to the National Lotteries Charity Board for submission in February 1999. At this stage further financial assistance of £5,000 is requested from the Council to secure the continued employment of the development worker and associated project costs until May 1999 when the outcome of the Lottery Board application is expected.
- 5.2 Accordingly it is recommended that a further £5,000 be awarded to Eastfield Community Action Group Management Committee to support the activities and services until this time.

#### **6 Recommendation**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:
- 1 approve financial support of £5,000 to Eastfield Community Action Group from the Chief Executive's Department payment to other agencies budget; and
  - 2 otherwise note the contents of this report.

  
Mr. Chief Executive