

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Policy and Resource (Community Development) Sub Committee	Subject: Airdrie YMCA - Funding Request 1998/99
From: Chief Executive	
Date: 24 February 1999	Ref: CE/012/004/037

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee to consider an additional funding award to Airdrie YMCA in the remainder of this financial year.

2.0 Background

2.1 Airdrie YMCA has operated from purpose built premises in Hallcraig Street, Airdrie for the past 27 years. The Centre provides a range of activities including: Chess Clubs; Karate; Badminton; Youth Club; Girls Club; Drop in Cafe; and regular events for particular age ranges within the community.

2.2 The YMCA employs a full time Manager and part time cleaner. The YMCA receives annual revenue funding from North Lanarkshire Council's Education Department Voluntary Sector Grants and in 1998/99 the award was £3,300. Whilst the revenue funding allocated to Airdrie YMCA has been reduced in recent years, the YMCA has previously managed to retain a sufficient level of operating income due to funds generated through the Drop in Cafe.

2.3 Recently however, the relocation of Safeway Supermarket from Graham Street , adjacent to the YMCA, to the Retail Park has resulted in a significant drop in customers using the Cafe and a resultant drop in profits.

2.4 The accommodation available within the YMCA is currently occupied to capacity and does not provide the project with suitable opportunities designed to generate further funds. Coupled with this, the building was poorly designed with a flat roof and is now falling into serious disrepair with rainwater penetration.

3.0 Development Proposals

3.1 In attempting to resolve the problems linked to the unsuitability of the accommodation and limited finances, the YMCA Management Committee has produced a Business Plan setting out its aims to re-focus the service and guarantee the future of Airdrie YMCA in the long term. These include:

- The development of an outreach service for young people potentially funded through BBC Children in Need;
- The identification of, and re-location to new premises which would provide the project with increased opportunities to expand and develop new services and new routes to funding; and
- Targeted funding applications to trusts and charities including the National Lottery Charities Board.

3.2 Whilst the Management Committee has begun to progress the proposals contained within their Business Plan it is recognised that many of these aims are long term and will not secure additional funding in the short term. The Management Committee anticipates a funding shortfall in this

financial year of £2,000 and a request has been made to North Lanarkshire Council to consider an additional funding award in the remainder of this financial year.

4.0 **Recommendation**

4.1 It is recognised that the loss of revenue to the YMCA's Cafe has resulted in a considerable shortfall to the project's annual income and this, coupled with the unsuitability of their existing premises for future developments has resulted in the current financial difficulties.

4.2 The efforts and enthusiasm of the Management Committee to address these problems are recognised however, and it is therefore suggested that the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee considers an additional funding award of £2,000 to enable the YMCA to consolidate its current activities and establish a solid foundation from which to develop its Business Plan objectives. Given that the YMCA Management Committee has limited previous experience in developing and implementing a strategic action plan however, it is emphasised that this funding award is not merely an increase to their current revenue grant from North Lanarkshire Council but rather, an additional payment to support the YMCA during a difficult process and provide an element of stability from which developments may be progressed. It is further recommended that this funding award is subject to the submission of regular progress reports from the YMCA on the implementation of their Business Plan.

4.3 The Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee is requested to:

- i) Note the current financial difficulties experienced by Airdrie YMCA and the Management Committee's intentions to address these through the proposals contained within their Business Plan;
- ii) Approve an award of £2,000 to Airdrie YMCA from the Chief Executive's Payments to Agencies and Other Bodies Budget 1998/99 subject to the submission of detailed progress reports from the YMCA and the understanding that this is an additional funding award and not an increase in core revenue funding from North Lanarkshire Council; and,
- iii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.


Chief Executive