

**REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE –
14 AUGUST 2000**

REPORT ON: LOCAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE : LEASE EXTENSION

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 498-2000

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek Committee approval for the extension of lease arrangements within two neighbourhood centres to pilot external grant aid applications.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

2.1 the Committee notes and approves the extension of lease for up to 25 years to allow Ardler and Charleston Neighbourhood Management Groups, currently within the local management initiative, to pilot applications for external capital or revenue grant funding to improve/refurbish areas of the centres.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Any financial contribution from the Council will be contained within the Council's existing Capital Plan during the period involved.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no implications.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The improvements envisaged will seek to improve access for the disabled and will facilitate improved services to this group.

6.0 CURRENT POSITION

6.1 Reference is made to Report 413/1997 approved 9 June 1997 which outlined the leasing of a number of neighbourhood centres to local people on short-term lease.

6.2 Since the above Report the local management initiative now extends to 8 neighbourhood complexes who have all successfully gained Inland Revenue recognition for charitable status and operate under a Service Level Agreement in partnership with the Department.

6.3 The tenure arrangements are annual with 3 months notice by either partner to terminate.

6.4 A number of centres have been upgraded but work still requires to be undertaken in order to bring the buildings up to current public expectations for centres for social, information and learning requirements.

6.5 The use of all centres is rising annually at a promising rate and local management groups are keen to encourage this trend.

6.6 To enable external capital grant aid to be applied for, it is necessary to ensure funders that the applicant body ie the local management group enjoys charitable status, is competent, democratically elected and has security of tenure for a period of at least 20 years.

7.0 FUTURE POSITION

- 7.1 To enable key groups to pilot external capital funding opportunities it is suggested that the Committee grant such security of tenure for up to 25 years to the Ardler and Charleston Complexes.
- 7.2 Reports on the progress of the above pilots will be brought to Committee at regular intervals.
- 7.3 The Council's Income Generation officers will assist with the grant aid applications and documentation.
- 7.4 If external funding is secured it is likely that any major change, made by the City Council, to the operating arrangements of the properties may result in the need to return part or all of the external funds attracted.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, Directors of Finance and Support Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report together with the management groups of the pilot centres.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 No background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

Director, Neighbourhood Resources and Development

Date