

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 30 OCTOBER 2002

SUBJECT: FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR MORAY

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report asks Committee to consider creating the post of Football Development Officer for Moray jointly funded by the Moray Council and the Scottish Football Association.

2. Background

- 2.1 From 1993 until 2000 Moray had a full-time Football Development Officer fully funded by the Scottish Football Association (Neil Simpson was the post holder). When Neil Simpson moved to work with Aberdeen Football Club the Scottish Football Association announced they could no longer meet the full salary costs of such a post and indicated that they would like the Moray Council to fall in line with all other local authorities in Scotland by mainstreaming the post, with a small contribution from the Scottish Football Association.
- 2.2 Officers of the Council have been in dialogue and negotiation with the Scottish Football Association who have now offered a sum of £20,000 over three years to help fund a full-time Football Development Officer for Moray, based in Moray. The Scottish Football Association would offer the postholder technical advice, support and on-going training and inclusion in any national campaign such as the recently announced deal with MacDonalds for football development in schools, goal getters and mini-kickers.
- 2.3 Experience of having had a Football Development Officer in Moray demonstrates that such a post has much to offer in terms of involvement of young boys and girls in football and in diversion from other less healthy activities. The postholder would also facilitate coach education and training for adults who would wish to become involved in youth football and who would wish to ensure that they were skilled and knowledgeable in current training techniques and practices.

3. The Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed to appoint a Football Development Officer for Moray in conjunction with the Scottish Football Association on a full-time basis on the salary grade AP3 £16,673 (see attached job description and person specification as **Appendix 1**). The post would initially be offered for a period of three years.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Funding for the post would be shared among the Scottish Football Association, £20,000 over three years, existing Sports Development and Youth Work budgets £27,000 over three years, and income generated by the post. There is currently a sum of £5,455 representing income from the final year of Neil Simpson's tenure of the post.

5. Staffing Implications

- 5.1 The proposal is to establish a new post of Football Development Officer for Moray. The postholder would work under the direction of the Senior Sport and Leisure Officer.
- 5.2 Staff appointed on temporary contracts may accrue certain employment rights during their period of employment including redundancy payments where service extends beyond two years. These rights may entitle staff to submit claims which could have financial implications for the Council. The Council will minimise the risk arising from such claims through the application of good employment practice.

6. Environmental Implications

- 6.1 The involvement of the young people in Moray in healthy physical activity is advantageous to the local environment and may also divert young people's energies from less healthy or less beneficial activities.

7. Consultations

- 7.1 The Head of Financial Services and the Head of Personnel Services have been consulted and their comments on the post have been incorporated.

8. Corporate Plan

- 8.1 The proposals contained within this report meet the Council's objectives as set out in the Sports Strategy.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Committee approve the establishment of the post of Football Development Officer for Moray for an initial period of three years in partnership with the Scottish Football Association.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/P&R/30 October 2002/
Football Development Officer for Moray