

## BUDGET CONSULTATION SUMMARY OF EVENTS

<b>EVENT</b>	Equalities Forum
<b>DATE</b>	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2013
<b>NUMBERS ATTENDING</b>	30

<b>POINTS/QUESTIONS RAISED</b>		
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>QUESTION COMMENT</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
<b>Budget Consultation</b>	What consultation has taken place with Adults with learning difficulties? It worked last year.	No change in service delivery. No need to come out as we discuss on an ongoing basis.
<b>Joined up Services</b>	Join up services in terms of social care.	Fiona Lees/Eddie Fraser too big for one service but will build a partnership Pan Ayrshire. Shared service with RNIB/RNID etc. Potential for it to work for some things eg Sensory impairment and out of hours social work.
<b>Vibrant Communities</b>	Who are Vibrant Communities?  Gateway moved – cafe closed	Fiona Lees will arrange for contact to be made.  Fiona Lees – discuss on a 1-1 to see what support can be provided potential use of Woodstock Resource Centre when opened.
<b>Solar Panels</b>	Solar Panels – why not more? Benefits not seen on many town centre buildings	Alex McPhee – listed buildings and orientation of buildings. Not suitable for all facilities. Consider for some new housing (Chris McAleavey)
<b>Equalities</b>	<b>Comment</b> Thank you for promoting interfaith event. First meeting 30 November – all invited Thanks to Vibrant Communities and Equalities staff for help	Acknowledged.
<b>French lessons</b>	Equalities – politicians – cuts Closing libraries Empty buildings Charges too high	FL – COSLA adequate funding.  Having to cut services.  Groups need to meet councils half way.
<b>Waste Management</b>	Size of the bin for recycling plastic is too small	Happy to engage with people as scheme is rolled out (Chris McAleavey)

<b>Children's House</b>	Will new home mean that it will be managed by East Ayrshire Council and not larger private organisations	<p>East Ayrshire Council not always in control of private organisations setting up.</p> <p>East Ayrshire clear in their commitment as a corporate parent.</p> <p>Complaints to Care Inspectorate.</p>
<b>Welfare Reform</b>	People with learning difficulties – not realistic for them to be better off in work than out of work. Only 1 person in VIP group has a job(16 hours per week) and there are 20 + in core group	Speak to Disability Employment Advisor in Job Centre. Work with employers to highlight the benefits of employing people with disabilities.
	Help to sign on	Advisors will support people to complete on line applications
	Help for people who won't be able to manage their money properly	Facility to make more frequent payments but this can only happen when information is available about the difficulties people are having – monitor through social work.
<b>Housing Benefit</b>	Why can people not choose for their housing benefit to go straight to their landlord	Supposed to help people manage their own money and reflect the world of work. Some people who pay landlords directly do not even know how much their rent costs.