

Community investment review

Throughout the year the Charities Committee members monitored the effectiveness of the new nominated charities policy and took feedback from employees.

The nominated charities policy sought to ensure that funds were raised for none controversial charitable institutions to ensure money was diverted to worthy causes. This meant that AMEC withdraw the employee choice of charity. However it became clear at the November 2007 review that the new nominated charities policy had not worked well.

During 2006 there were over 300 applications made for matched funding made by AMEC employees but at the November 2007 meeting it was clear the extent to which the new policy had impacted on the matched funding applications. Only 33 applications had been received during 2007 and from these applications nine had been rejected because they did not support nominated charities. It was clear to the Charities Committee that the policy change was not having the intended effect and would need to be amended to improve access to local community investment funding.

A proposal to reinstate the employee choice matched funding in 2008 was agreed and the investment budget would be split into two equal halves. Fifty percent of the budget put towards supporting employee nominated

“local” charities and the fifty percent put towards a small number of AMEC “strategic” charities.

The Charities Committee reviewed its policy of charitable donation and made changes which will improve the link between its work and AMEC’s Community Guiding Principles. As part of these changes the committee, in consultation with the AMEC employees, identified a small number of “strategic” charities. The remit of the Charities Committee was extended to validating investment in strategic charities and communicating progress to AMEC employees; these change will be enacted in January 2008.

In looking at the investment strategy the Charities Committee has committed to supporting charities which uphold human rights through education, access to health care, entrepreneurship, improved environmental quality and work which supports the UN Millennium Development Goals (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>).

Due to the lack of matched funding applications the community investment budget was not spent. So the Charities Committee made the decision to use the money to invest in an ethical holiday gift for AMEC employees.