

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

To:	Economic Development Committee	Subject:	Training & Resource Bank 1996/97 Recommended Allocation of Funds
From:	Director of Planning & Development		
Date:	16 April 1996	Ref:	SC/TL/018

1.0 Proposed Decision

This report seeks approval for the undernoted recommendations on the allocation of funding in 1996/97 to training initiatives in the Central Area.

2.0 Resources

There are no resource implications arising from this report as resources are available from an approved urban programme project.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 The Training Resource Bank is an Urban Programme funded project sponsored by Monklands District Council and approved by the Scottish Office for a two year period beginning in the financial year 1995/96. The project provides capital resources to encourage and support innovative training programmes and pilot schemes with a view to attracting longer term support from a wide variety of sources.
- 3.2 In addressing the requirements of this project, this council, Coatbridge College, the LDA, Monklands Enterprise, the Lanarkshire Development Agency and the Training Resource Unit( a council sponsored Employment and Training project) formed an advisory group to consider proposals which could be eligible for a contribution from the Training Resource Bank.
- 3.3 The group has considered bids for funding for the next financial year and Monklands District Council agreed in March 1996 that these recommendations be referred to North Lanarkshire Council with a view to ensuring early implementation in the financial year 1996/97.
- 3.4 The recommendations are listed below.
- 3.4.1 Plains Countryside park: training initiative

The project's aims are to create training, jobs and economic development opportunities in the area, contribute to the existing employment and training initiatives sponsored by this council, to create a much needed social amenity for the residents of the area and to provide visitor attractions.

In terms of Monklands District Council's employment and training strategy, support for this project would represent support for a local community group sponsoring and managing training for local residents and as such should be viewed as a pilot scheme which could serve as a model for similar future initiatives.

The total costs of this initiative is estimated at approximately £94,000. Of that, £60,000 capital is required to purchase the equipment to be installed. The Countryside Park committee is preparing a funding package with other agencies and seeking a contribution from the Training Resource Bank.

It was agreed to recommend that £30,000 be allocated towards the capital costs of the equipment for this training initiative.

#### 3.4.2 Coatbridge College: training opportunities in theatre studies

This proposal submitted by Coatbridge college for assistance from the Training Resource Bank aims to provide a training resource which will allow the development of training in new areas of certificated training, provide a resource for local arts groups and to develop the theatre into a quality core venue in the area, attracting theatre groups from within and outwith the area.

The college has evidence to show that there are employment opportunities in practical theatre technology such as stage management, lighting, stage carpentry etc. Currently the college cannot offer certificated training in these areas as the theatre does not offer the required level of facilities.

The college would anticipate running courses for twenty students at a time, possibly on the basis of two intakes of students per year.

In addition to the direct training benefits offered to local residents, there are wider benefits to be developed as part of the college's plans. It is proposed that the theatre also be developed as a resource for arts groups in Monklands, including the two council-sponsored arts projects (Artbridge and North Airdrie Arts Group). As members may be aware, there is no such community facility currently. Part of this proposal is to offer a mobile facility on an outreach basis, which is part of both the college's and the council's strategies on ensuring access to good quality facilities and services to all residents of the district.

The proposal would also contribute to the council's strategies on arts and on tourism, promoting the area as an attractive place to live and work in offering a quality theatre that would attract national and regional theatre groups.

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The total cost of the project would be £223,750 but implementation can be done in incremental stages. To provide sufficient equipment to start the programme and offer certificated training, £63,000 is required.

After discussion it was agreed to recommend the allocation of £47,250 towards the cost of purchasing equipment.

#### 3.4.3 Lanarkshire Development Agency: Employment Youthstart

The group considered a proposal by the LDA which would offer a project designed to assist disadvantaged young people develop their employment and training opportunities.

The total costs of this project for 1996/97 are £210,000, with funding being allocated from ESF, Strathclyde Regional Council and the LDA. There is an outstanding balance of £40,000 which the LDA has sought from the Training Resource Bank.

After discussion, and having noted that the funding was being sought to provide capital for premises etc., it was agreed that a more appropriate contribution "in kind" could be made available through collaboration with existing employment and training initiatives currently operating from and developing new venues for employment and training purposes.

It was agreed that the council-sponsored Training Resource Unit would liaise with the LDA to prepare a proposal paper on this option as a matter of urgency.

3.4.4 The recommendations above represent the full commitment of the 1996/97 allocation of £77,250 for this project.

#### 4. Recommendation

Members are asked to approve the allocation of the Training Resource Bank funds for 1996/97 as outlined above.



Gordon Smith  
Head of Business Development & Property

For further information contact Maureen McConachie, Economic Development Manager