

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Subject: BOOST FOR BUSINESS START UP - ERDF APPROVAL
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	
Date: 2 August 1996	Ref: MMcC/JG/REP.028

Introduction

Boost for Business Start Up provides grant finance for unemployed people resident within North Lanarkshire enabling them to become self-employed. A grant of £500 is awarded to each successful applicant. A further £300 top-up grant is awarded to those applicants who are long-term unemployed ie they have been unemployed for more than 29 weeks. The additional top-up funding of £300 per applicant is supplied by Employment Services.

Funding

Boost for Business Start Up is funded jointly by North Lanarkshire Council, the Lanarkshire Development Agency and British Steel (Industry) Ltd. Top up funding, as indicated above, is provided by Employment Services. European Regional Development Funding had been secured for the project for the previous Motherwell District area until March 1998. An application was submitted to Strathclyde European Partnership to increase this funding which would enable the project to be extended across North Lanarkshire.

Strathclyde European Partnership

Approval has been given by Strathclyde European Partnership to award European Regional Development Funding of £94,697 to Boost for Business Start Up for the 1996/97 and 1997/98 period. This brings the total available to be spent on the programme in the period to £189,394. This will enable the Council to award approximately 150 Start Up Grants each year across North Lanarkshire for the 1996/97 and 1997/98 period.

Boost for Business Start Up will be operated on behalf of the Council by the three Enterprise Trusts; Motherwell Enterprise Development Company, Monklands Enterprise Development Company and Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Enterprise Trust. Quarterly reports will be submitted to Committee detailing individuals who have received the grants and the nature of their business. Operational procedures for Boost for Business Start Up were outlined and approved at the May Committee of the Economic Development and are not subject to change in respect of the European Regional Development funding.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report and

- (i) Approve a letter of acceptance to Strathclyde European Partnership for the European Regional Development funding confirming the North Lanarkshire Council contribution will be met from existing budgets.



Stanley C Cook
Director of Planning and Development