

<b>To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</b>		<b>Subject:</b>  <b>QUARTERLY REPORT ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES - NORTH LANARKSHIRE LOANS FUND - LEVEL OF OFFICER DELEGATED AUTHORITY</b>
<b>From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<b>Date: 31 July 1996</b>	<b>Ref: EB/REP.044</b>	

## PURPOSE

To seek Committee approval to raise the level of delegated authority for loans awarded under the North Lanarkshire Business Loans scheme from £10,000 to £15,000.

## BACKGROUND

This loan fund was set up to provide additional loan finance of up to £30,000 to both start up and existing businesses with North Lanarkshire. The fund operates within the West of Scotland Loans fund, consisting of the 12 new authorities evolved from Strathclyde Region. At present approval of loans up to and including £10,000 have officer delegation and above this amount the Economic Development Committee consider these applications.

Loans of up to and including £15,000 are unsecured. Loans awarded above this amount require input from the Council's legal department who deal with the appropriate documentation relating to security, and who require to make recommendations on any loans over this amount., prior to approval.

A condition of European funding to the West of Scotland Loans Fund is that there is consistency of approach from the member councils. To this end it has been agreed that the member councils continue the guidelines that were set down by Strathclyde Business Development - who were instrumental in securing the funding from Europe.

The timescale in place at the moment for handling completed applications is:

Loans £10,000 and under - 4 weeks

Loans over £10,000 - 10 weeks - to allow for committee cycles.

Raising the delegation level would offer a quicker turnaround period to an increased number of applicants.

## CONCLUSION

The raising of the level of delegated authority from £10,000 to £15,000 would:

1. Correspond with the level of loan that requires security and input from other council departments
2. Correspond with the delegated authority of the other member councils
3. Enable the Economic Development Unit to offer a more efficient service to our clients

## RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to:

- 1.. Approve the raising of the officers delegated authority level to £15,000.



Stan Cook  
Director of Planning and Development

For further information contact Gordon Smith, Head of Economic Development and Property.