

REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: NORTH LANARKSHIRE ECONOMIC MONITOR PUBLICATION
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 4 September 1996	Ref: SC/JG/REP.067	

Background

The North Lanarkshire Economic Monitor is a proposed publication which would outline; economic trends and statistics for North Lanarkshire, information on economic sectors and companies within them and trends in the local property market. Similar documents are produced by many large councils, Edinburgh and Glasgow being two of the most prominent.

Involvement

Economic Development Unit staff are in discussion with staff from the Chief Executive's Department to produce the document. The document would adopt a corporate North Lanarkshire Council approach and involve other departments as necessary, planning and property would be requested to supply data on a regular basis. The likely contents of such a document would include:

- A general periodic overview for past year or six months.
- A section on general economic statistics and sectoral change.
- Labour market trends.
- Information on company expansion/contractions by sector.
- Property market trends.
- An appendix on ward unemployment statistics.

Production

Two issues per year would be the likely initial rate of production. Timescales would need to be agreed but autumn and spring may be the most suitable times, with the first issue being produced before Christmas 1996.

Distribution

The document would be used as part of information being sent to potential inward investors, to indigenous companies expanding and used as a source of information to highlight economic trends to other agencies and the press. The document would be a useful source of information for other Council departments and elected members.

Cost of Production - 500 copies of a quality publication will cost approximately £2,500 to produce each issue.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee

- (a) note the proposal and agree 'in principle' to the department contributing to the development of the Council's economic monitor publication.
- (b) authorise the allocation of £5,000 towards the costs of its production
- (c) seek a further report in due course which outlines in detail its proposed content, identifies contributors and specifies the management and other arrangements to be established.



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For further information contact G Smith, Head of Business Development and Property.