

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To:	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Subject:	Federation of Economic Development Authorities Regional Meeting
From:	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT MANAGER		
Date:	07.10.96	Ref:	MM/EH/ REP/084

The Federation of Economic Development Authorities (FEDA) is a U.K. wide federation with membership drawn from a range of Local Authorities. The former Motherwell District Council was a member of FEDA, and from 1st July 1996 North Lanarkshire Council has been a member of the Organisation. Councillors Curran and Connelly, Convener and Vice Convener of Economic Development Unit, are elected member representatives while Gordon Smith, Head of Economic Development and Property is the Council's officer representative.

Each year FEDA holds a number of regional meeting and study tours which are hosted by a Local Authority providing an opportunity to inform other practitioners about Economic Development issues within their area. The Convener of the Economic Development Committee expressed an interest in this Council hosting a Regional Meeting and Study Tour during 1997/98. The anticipated cost of hosting this event would be in the region of £7,000 to £10,000, depending on the length of the tour and the accompanying hospitality provided to delegates.

In the past, several Authorities have achieved sponsorship from local companies or agencies when hosting the event which has partly funded the costs. In recent years there have been regional meetings in Aberdeen in 1986 and in Stirling in 1992. It is anticipated that a visit to North Lanarkshire would be popular with members as it will provide an excellent opportunity for them to see the progress that has been made in terms of regeneration since the steel closures, and would provide them with an insight into methods of working and results being achieved in the area by the Council and its partners in Economic Development.

Administration of the event would be carried out jointly by FEDA and the Economic Development Unit. As an event of this type would require detailed organisation it is proposed that the visit should take place in the autumn of 1997. It is anticipated that up to 100 delegates would attend the event which would give a boost to local hotels and guest houses at that time.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of this report, and:

- (i) approve that the Council write to the Federation of Economic Development Authorities offering to host a regional meeting in North Lanarkshire in autumn 1997 at a cost of between £7,000 to £10,000 to the Council and :
- (ii) that sponsorship of the event is sought from the private sector to contribute to the cost of hosting the event.



DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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