

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: LIFT OFF FUND 1996/97
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 1 August 1997	Ref: JT/REP.271	

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Economic Development Committee of the operation of the Lift Off Fund during the 1996/97 financial year.

2 Background

2.1 The Lift Off Fund is an Urban Programme project sponsored by the Scottish Office and the predecessor local authority, Strathkelvin District Council. The project was launched in April 1995 for a period of 4 years with a total grant fund of £11,000. In addition, Dunbartonshire Enterprise contribute a further £4,500 per annum to the project, which is targeted at unemployed residents from within East Dunbartonshire. Approximately £5,500 of the project is targeted at unemployed residents within 3 Urban Programme designated areas within North Lanarkshire, namely Mount Ellen, Moodiesburn and Cardowan.

2.2 The scheme is administered by East Dunbartonshire Council as part of the Joint Urban Programme arrangements agreed with North Lanarkshire Council.

2.3 The Economic Development Unit, North Lanarkshire Council has agreed to assume responsibility for the promotion of the Fund to those eligible residents within the Urban Programme designated areas within the Northern Corridor of North Lanarkshire.

3 The Lift Off Fund

3.1 The Lift Off Fund offers grant assistance to local unemployed people to enhance their employment opportunities. The scheme is intended to provide discretionary grant assistance to individuals who have been unemployed for at least 3 months, residing within the designated areas.

3.2 The scheme supports initiatives which undertake to equip people with new skills, maintain/improve existing skills or allow participation in status-giving activities which will assist access and entry to employment. Eligible initiatives include training, travel expenses for interviews/training courses and clothing/tools to enable the client to take up an employment opportunity.

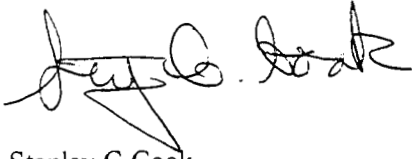
3.3 In 1996/97, a total of 43 applications were supported at a cost of £12,868, thereby assisting 62 people.

3.4 Of the 43 applications supported, a total of 11 clients were resident within the North Lanarkshire designated areas, with clients receiving a total of £2,750. It was anticipated that this figure would have been in excess of £5,000, however, an application from an eligible Project was subsequently withdrawn.

4 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) note the contents of this report for the Lift Off Fund during its operation within the 1996/97 financial year; and
- (ii) note that future monitoring reports will be submitted to Committee twice yearly.



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For further information, please contact John J Turley, Senior Economic Development Officer (Tel: 01236 616271).