

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: : Tour of Employment and Training projects
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 1 August 1997	Ref: TL/REP/268	

1. Purpose of report

1.1 This report seeks to advise members of the tour of employment and training projects organised by the convener of Economic Development on Wednesday 31 July 1997.

2. Background

2.1 As members may recall, it was decided at the last meeting of the Economic Development Committee to invite councillors on a tour of selected employment and training projects (most of which are funded through the Council's urban programme) to inspect a range of service delivery provided or sponsored by the Council (appendix one shows the itinerary).

2.2 Fourteen councillors joined Councillors Curran and Connolly on the tour along with the Director of Planning and Development, the Head of Economic Development and Property and staff from the Economic Development Unit.

2.3 The projects selected were chosen primarily to show the range of partnerships and delivery mechanisms which is used by the Council to provide training and employment services to local unemployed people. The projects were selected from a number of active initiatives and demonstrated:

- a) direct training delivery by Council staff in the Flexiwrite and Open Learning services
- b) community-led partnership employment and training projects as exemplified by the Plains Countryside Park development;
- c) Intermediate Labour Market models of training in environmental work as offered by Wisestart;
- d) community-based employment and training development as offered by the Summerlee Training Resource Unit in its work with local groups and in piloting Prevocational Training for long term unemployed people, particularly for opportunities in the Inward Investment companies;
- e) the Council's sponsorship of local training support in community venues to provide local access for unemployed people in a user-friendly approach to training; and
- f) partnership based training delivery for special needs groups in the Launchpad project at Chryston.

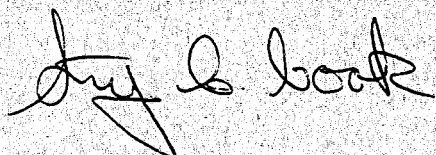
2.4 The councillors in attendance discussed with project staff and trainees various issues about the projects and about employment and training in general and the ways in which the Council might develop its support services for unemployed people, particularly long term unemployed people who often suffer from exclusion from economic and social activities as a result of their unemployment.

2.5 A number of people, council staff, project staff, trainees and volunteers were very helpful in providing information for the councillors during the course of this visit and demonstrated that the Council's partnership approach to economic development is implemented in all these areas of activity. It is hoped that the councillors found it useful to see the day to day operation of such a range of projects.

2.6 All of the projects provided information on their work and copies of this are available from the Economic Development Unit.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that members note this report.



Stanley C Cook

Director of Planning and Development

For further information, contact Teresa Lavery, Senior Economic Development Officer (Tel: 01236 616267).

APPENDIX 1

ITINERARY

- 9:30 am Coffee/tea at Civic Centre
- 10:00 am Departure from Civic Centre
- 10:15 am Drive through Wishaw town centre to show Wisestart environmental improvements
- 10:20 am Flexiwrite project in Wishaw Library - photo opportunity Tel: 01698 357614
- 11:15 am Plains Countryside Park Tel: 01236 843327
- 12:30 pm LUNCH - Summerlee Museum with staff from Summerlee Training Resource Unit
Tel: 01236 436801
- 1:15 pm Departure from Summerlee
- 1:30 pm Local training support centre (Kirkshaws) - photo opportunity Tel: 01236 426200
- 2:15 pm Launchpad Chryston Tel: 0141 779 3629
- 3:00 pm Return to Civic Centre