

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Subject:	
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	ECONOMIC REGENERATION – INFORMATION PACK FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS	
Date: 31/7/97	Ref:DR/REP.263	

## 1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Committee approval for the production of an information pack for secondary school teachers which will study the regeneration of the North Lanarkshire economy.
- 1.2 This information pack will form the basis of teaching material for project work within Modern Studies and Geography secondary school courses that satisfies the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- 1.3 The pack will help build awareness of the efforts undertaken by the principal local and national organisations engaged in improving the Lanarkshire economy, the achievements to date and the leading role of the Council in helping to boost the economic fortunes of the area. It will promote the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for North Lanarkshire residents to an audience of schoolpupils who represent the potential workforce and entrepreneurs for the North Lanarkshire of the future.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 The Economic Development Unit from time to time receives enquiries from the education sector - both from students and teaching staff within and outwith North Lanarkshire - for information concerning the main developments within the North Lanarkshire economy. These periodical requests for information normally stem from projects which may form part of a Modern Studies or Geography secondary school course.
- 2.2 This has led the Economic Development Unit to identify a gap in the educational market for a high quality information pack that will present the economic regeneration of North Lanarkshire as an interesting and appropriate topic for study by secondary school pupils on an individual or group basis.

## 3 Format

- 3.1 The information pack will consist of approximately eight A4 pages as inserts within a presentation folder together with a set of colour slides, for an overhead projector, which will be used to visually support the teaching material. The first of these inserts will also act as a stand-alone document which will provide a general summary of the regeneration of the North Lanarkshire economy. This will be available to all individuals and organisations.
- 3.2 An initial print run of one hundred and fifty information packs will be produced. Approximately four information packs will be distributed to each of the twenty-six secondary schools within North Lanarkshire for the use of Geography and Modern Studies teachers. The remainder will be distributed in response to enquiries from schools outwith North Lanarkshire and from other sources.

## 4 Content

- 4.1 The information pack will outline the significant economic developments that have taken place within North Lanarkshire as it moves forward from an economy focused primarily on traditional labour intensive industries to a broader-based economy that supports a range of industry sectors, including the high-growth, high-technology industries of the future such as electronics.

- 4.2 The early development of Lanarkshire's traditional industries of coal, iron and steel production, the gradual decline of these traditional industries and the impact of company closures and job losses on local communities during the recessionary conditions of the 1980s/early 1990s will first be examined. This will set in context the importance and urgency of measures to revitalise the economic prosperity of North Lanarkshire.
- 4.3 The main efforts to rejuvenate and diversify the local economy will then be studied. The success of North Lanarkshire in attracting inward investment and the emergence of growth industries such as electronics and telecommunications, the success of industrial sites and business parks and the importance of a thriving small and medium - sized business sector will all be highlighted. Town centre initiatives, economic regeneration projects within local communities and schemes to assist the unemployed will also be examined. The partnership approach adopted by the main organisations involved in economic development and the key role played by North Lanarkshire Council will be emphasised.
- 4.4 The information pack will outline the future economic issues for North Lanarkshire and the strategy to be implemented by the main economic development partners to create a sustainable, robust and diverse economic base for North Lanarkshire.
- 4.5 A list of information sources for further consultation will be included at the end of each section to encourage teachers to pursue their own interests.

## **5 Partnership**

- 5.1 A meeting with the Education Department has already been held to discuss their involvement in the project with regard to identifying sponsorship opportunities and to inviting teaching staff to contribute to the writing up of the information pack. Assistance with the content and structure of the pack will also be sought from the Education Business Partnership, etc.

## **6 Budget**

- 6.1 A budget of £4000 has been allocated to this project from existing resources which will cover all in-house design, photography and production costs.
- 6.2 The production of the information pack may be financed in part through the remaining funds, which amount to £ 2554, of the "Motherwell Towards the 21st Century" Schools Conference, co-ordinated by Motherwell District Council on behalf of the Motherwell Partnership, that took place in October 1995. Funding of £2,554 was transferred to North Lanarkshire Council and is held in a suspense account. Approval for using the funds for this purpose will be sought from the sponsors of the Conference, Lanarkshire Development Agency and British Steel (Industry) Ltd.
- 6.3 The remaining costs of producing the information pack will be funded from existing budgets within the Economic Development Unit

## **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to approve the production of an Economic Regeneration Information Pack for Secondary School Teachers to be funded from existing resources.



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