

AGENDA ITEM No. **12**

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: NEW DEAL: ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 5 March 1998	Ref: TL/REP.381	

1. Purpose of report

This report seeks to advise members of the Council's proposed management of the Environmental Task Force option in the Government's New Deal for Young People.

2. Background

- 2.1 As members may know, the Council's current work on the New Deal is being co-ordinated by the Chief Executive's department. The implementation of the New Deal in Lanarkshire is being co-ordinated by a Strategic Partnership involving Employment Services, the LDA, the Careers Service, the two local authorities, Scottish Homes, Chambers of Commerce, Lanarkshire Adult Guidance Network, and representatives from the Voluntary sector. North Lanarkshire Council is represented by the Chief Executive's Department, which is co-ordinating the Council's activity on the New Deal via an interdepartmental working group representing relevant council departments..
- 2.2 The local authorities are being invited by Employment Services to tender for the management of the Environmental Task Force(ETF) option under the New Deal; no other agency will be invited to bid. The local authorities will, therefore, have the responsibility for ensuring the delivery of training and support on quality training programmes in environmental work and environment-linked programmes. The bid for the contract must be submitted to the Strategic Partnership by 19 February 1998. This is being drafted by the Planning and Development department in consultation with other Council departments and other outside agencies.
- 2.3 The Planning and Development department has been co-ordinating the work of the Council and its proposed partners in the Environmental Task Force. The department will be responsible for co-ordinating the delivery of the programmes, with the Economic Development Unit supervising the provision of training to the trainees and the planning division being responsible for overseeing the outcomes of environmental works, in consultations with outside agencies.
- 2.4 Currently, officers are recommending that initially the Environmental Task Force training is delivered by a range of outside agencies, the Council subcontracting the delivery of different elements of the training programme for the clients. This recommendation is made for a number of reasons, not least the difficulties which the Council might face in trying to absorb an as yet unspecified number of trainees into existing mainline environmental services.

- 2.5 There are many issues still unclear in relation to the implementation of the Environmental Task Force on which we are currently seeking clarification from Employment Services. However, a major difficulty is the lack of capital resources available to support the development of quality training for Environmental Task Force trainees. Given that the Council will be responsible for the delivery of the ETF, the lack of capital resources is a difficulty which training deliverers will be raising with the Council.

To date there would appear to be 4 main options in dealing with this:

- 1) allocating trainees to existing environmental works either within or outwith the Council(which appears to be of limited scope currently);
- 2) seeking European funding(which will require the council and/or partners to provide match funds);
- 3) seek ways of introducing Landfill tax monies into ETF projects;
- 4) allocating additional mainline Council resources to fund the capital elements of ETF.

Officers have not yet made formal recommendations in relation to external funding possibilities, although these issues require to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

3. Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.



 Stanley C Cook
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

For further information contact Teresa Lavery, Senior Economic Development Officer, 01236 616267

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