

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: Property Employment Support Programme
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 5 March 1998	Ref: TL/REP.382	

1. Purpose of Report

This report seeks to advise members of the Lanarkshire Development Agency's proposed bid for a pilot project in North Lanarkshire, Property and Employment Support, and to seek approval for the Council's support in principle for the Programme.

2. Considerations

- 2.1 The LDA proposes to submit a bid to Scottish Enterprise for "Property-Employment Support Programme" status on former steel sites in Lanarkshire and has invited North Lanarkshire Council and Employment Services to become partners in the pilot project.
- 2.2 Within Scottish Enterprise's remit, there is provision for designating RAPID Priority areas when property activity can be used to create local rather than national outputs in terms of employment creation. In September 1997 Scottish Enterprise sought Scottish Office approval to merge PPA (Priority Partnership Area) and RAPID Priority areas activity.
- 2.3 The LDA proposes submitting a bid to have one of the two proposed pilot schemes located in North Lanarkshire, linking the property development proposed at the former Ravenscraig steel sites with employment and training opportunities for local unemployed people in nearby steel communities with a particular focus on Community Economic Development areas as designated by Strathclyde European Partnership (based on the areas submitted by the Council as PPA's). These areas are, North Motherwell (designated PPA), Craigneuk and Wishaw, South Coatbridge and North Airdrie.
- 2.4 The LDA also proposes that unemployed residents in the surrounding areas should not be excluded from training and employment opportunities arising out of the Programme but that priority should be given to targeting the designated geographical areas.
- 2.5 In the first instance it is not anticipated that this Programme would attract additional resources, but offer an operational framework for a focusing and matching of existing resources from the partner agencies. At a later stage, it may attract additional funding and facilitate the development of European funding packages.
- 2.6 Initial discussions with the LDA have highlighted the Council's recent development work in employment and training initiatives and the final draft of the bid will incorporate these examples of the types of developments possible.

- 2.7 For example, the Programme may offer opportunities for the development of construction-based training on the Ravenscraig site for local unemployed people or training in leisure or retail skills for the expected commercial developments on the site.
- 2.8 The Council's existing employment and training programmes which could link with this proposed programme include Employment Grants Scheme (EGS), MTTG, Training Assistance Grants (TAG), prevocational training, Women's Placement Programme.
3. Recommendation

Members are asked to approve the Council's partnership with the LDA and Employment Services, with no additional resource implications arising as a consequence.



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DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

For further information please contact Teresa Lavery on 01236 616267

17 February 1998