

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Subject: CRAIGNEUK OUTREACH STAFF: TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS	
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 5 March 1998	Ref: TL/REP/385	

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to extend the temporary employment contracts of the staff based at the Craigneuk Outreach office until 30 June 1998 to support the delivery of the new support programme for the Employment Grants Scheme, pending decisions on European funding bids for the development services for unemployed people.

2. Considerations

- 2.1 As members may recall, on the termination of the bulk of urban programme funding for Community Enterprise Motherwell, the Council established an interim base at the CEM Craigneuk base to undertake development work in relation to services for unemployed people, with particular reference to possible European funding bids for resources. The temporary staffing complement comprises 1 AP5 development officer (full time), two administrative support workers (one part time and one full time).
- 2.2 The staff at Craigneuk currently hold temporary contracts, until March 1998. Contracts were extended from December 1997 at the Economic Development meeting of 27 November 1997 (TL/REP/341), pending decisions on two bids for European funding through RESIDER. Decisions on these bids are still awaited, therefore approval is now sought to further extend the staff contracts.
- 2.3 The project currently delivers a range of services in respect of training and employment, including the counselling and mentoring unemployed people recently recruited through the Employment Grants Scheme (ref previous committee report on the EGS mentoring scheme).

- 2.4 On the basis of the resources available through the Employment Grants scheme for this purpose, and the proposed heavy involvement of the Craigneuk staff in the delivery of the EGS support, it is proposed that the staff's current temporary employment contracts be extended until June 1998 to allow them to continue to assist in the development of the EGS programme while the Council awaits decisions on its bid for RESIDER funding and considers long term options on the delivery of the RESIDER programmes and future recommendations on the staffing of these programmes.
- 2.5 The arrangement outlined above will allow for the smooth development of the EGS support scheme, sufficient time to consider the implementation of the RESIDER programmes should the bids be successful, and the option of retaining experienced and committed staff over a period of uncertainty over funding packages.
- 2.6 This arrangement has been considered by the Director of Finance who supports the approach being proposed.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) approve the recommendation to extend the Craigneuk staff's temporary employment contracts until June 1998 on the basis of resource being available from the EGS scheme and for the purpose of developing and delivering the EGS support scheme as outlined; and
- (ii) refer the report to the Personnel Committee.




Stanley C Cook

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

For further information please contact Teresa Lavery, Senior Economic Development Officer, tel: 01236 616267.

17 November 1997