

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject:  BOOST FOR BUSINESS START UP
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 5 March 1998	Ref: EB/REP.374	

## 1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report seeks to advise members that an application has been submitted to Strathclyde European Partnership to secure funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in order to continue this programme for a further two years ie from April 1998 to March 2000.

## 2 Introduction

- 2.1 BOOST for Business Start Up provides a grant of £500 for unemployed people to assist them to become self-employed (Committee Report 372 contains progress report).
- 2.2 The programme will operate as previously agreed with one amendment. At Economic Development Committee 27 November 1997 (Report 333) Committee agreed that the former Local Enterprise Action Fund (LEAF) project's budget should be included with BOOST for Business Start Up to top up successful applicants who are resident in Regeneration areas and/or have particular needs eg childcare costs. This will top up the grant as follows:

BOOST	£500
LEAF Top Up	£500

This brings the total grant in certain circumstances to £1,000 for successful applicants.

- 2.3 Eligibility for this top up grant will be that the applicant is resident in an APT or regeneration area and/or they have particular needs such as those referred to in the following examples:
- Childcare costs in the start up phase of their business.
  - Additional capital spend requirement.
  - Additional specific business skills training.

This has been included in the bid to secure matched funding.

- 2.4 Contributions have been secured from British Steel (Industry) Ltd and the Lanarkshire Development Agency.
- 2.5 The total funding package would enable 229 new business start ups in North Lanarkshire in each of the financial years 1998/99 and 1999/2000, the period covered by the ERDF application.

**3 Recommendations**

3.1 It is recommended that Committee:

3.1.1 Approve the budget allocation of £50390 for the period 1998/99 subject to funding being available.

3.1.2 Homologate the application for ERDF Funding

3.1.3 Note that quarterly reports will be made to Committee.



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**Director of Planning and Development**

12 February 1998

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