

EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD ON 2 MARCH 2000

AGENDA ITEM NO.8b.....

NEW DEAL INITIATIVE - ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

10. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 18 November 1999 when, inter alia, the current position regarding the recruitment of New Deal trainees by the Environmental Task Force Consortium, Wisestart Limited, to undertake an Environmental Project under the Government's New Deal Initiative had been noted and the Director of Education had been requested to report to the Sub-Committee on the progress of the project, there was submitted a report dated February 2000 by the Director of Education (1) advising that since August 1999 Wisestart Limited had not received any new applications for New Deal trainee posts, and (2) intimating that consultations had been entered into with Wisestart Limited to discuss the failure of the recruitment process to date and to identify the options available to attract trainees to the project.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position regarding the recruitment of New Deal trainees be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Education be authorised to assess the feasibility of an alternative agency being deployed to recruit, train and supervise New Deal trainees, and
- (3) that the report be submitted to the Planning and Environment Committee for information.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Education Resources Sub-Committee	Subject: New Deal Initiative: Update Environmental Project
From: Director of Education	
Date: February 2000	
Ref: MM/NR	

Summary

The report updates the committee on the development of an environmental project under the government's New Deal Initiative.

Recommendations

The education resources sub-committee is recommended:

- (i) to note the current position regarding recruitment of New Deal trainees
- (ii) to refer the report to the planning and environment committee for its interest.

Members wishing further information about the paper should contact:

Michael O'Neill, Director of Education, on 01236 812337, or
Murdo Maciver, Head of Provisions/Contract Services, on 01236 812269.

Michael O'Neill

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**New Deal Initiative: Environmental Project****Report by Director****1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The New Deal programme is a government initiative which aims to help 18-24 year olds and the long-term unemployed into work.
- 1.2 In December 1997 the policy and resources committee agreed in principle to wide ranging council support for the initiative. In March 1998 that committee agreed that the council should take responsibility for the environmental task taking the lead role for its management and delivery. Subsequently a successful contract bid was made to the Employment Service.
- 1.3 This report is a progress report on the initiative.

2 THE APPROVED PROJECT

- 2.1 The project covered the use of water and energy resources in educational establishments. Two phases were envisaged.
- 2.2 Phase 1: Audit

This is a survey of the pattern and management of energy and water consumption in educational establishments. The projected timescale is 6 months and involves 5 New Deal employees. The training is in the area of energy surveying. Within the environmental task force consortium the Wise Group with council monitoring has taken responsibility for the recruitment, training and supervision of the trainees. At the end of phase 1 agreed information about energy use will be submitted to the education department and an evaluation report to the education committee.

- 2.3 Phase 2: Further Survey

At the end of phase 1 a phase 2 project is envisaged. It covers an audit of wider environmental issues in establishments, for example water consumption, waste disposal, lighting and recycled materials.

3 FUNDING

- 3.1 The major costs of the project are the initial training of the recruits and the weekly subsidy payable to them. These costs will be met by government support.
- 3.2 Any costs falling on the education department, for example accommodation and materials, will be minor and can be met from existing education department resources. There are no other costs for the council from the initiative.

4. FEBRUARY 2000 UPDATE

- 4.1 In the environmental task force consortium, Wisestart Ltd have responsibility for recruitment, training and supervision of the trainees with council monitoring. The following slow progress has been reported.
- (i) No new applicants have applied for the posts since three potential recruits were identified by Wisestart in August 1999. They did not proceed to training because of ill health and full time employment.
 - (ii) A meeting with Wisestart has been arranged to discuss the apparent failure of the recruitment process, and the improvements that can be made to attract trainees to the programme.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS: -

- 5.1 The education sub-committee is recommended:
- (i) to note the current position regarding recruitment of New Deal trainees.
 - (ii) to refer the report to the planning and environment committee for its interest