

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: SCOTTISH COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY (SCDI)
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 9th March 2000	Ref: ABR/REP655	

## 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the discontinuation of membership of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI).

## 2 Background

- 2.1 It is acknowledged that the SCDI has a long tradition of providing economic development advice and support to members and undertakes an annual survey of exports from Scotland and other research which is widely respected in the economic development community.
- 2.2 However much of SCDI's activity is concentrated at a national level. Many of their statistics can be sourced from other bodies and organisations, and indeed much of their research is available to non-members. SCDI publications are of limited usefulness, with both Indicator and Pointer containing material which can be sourced in a more timely and effective manner from alternative publications. SCDI conferences often have little relevance to the work of the Economic Development Unit, and even when appropriate still charge additional costs for attendance, which is open to non-members in any event. Indeed in the current financial year, only one SCDI conference has been attended by a member of staff from the Economic Development Unit.

## 3 Cost

- 3.1 In light of the need to identify areas where the EDU's existing budget can be cut, and given the limited benefits of membership which it generates, the Economic Development Unit find it extremely difficult to continue to justify the existing annual cost of £3,921. It is therefore proposed that membership be discontinued and that therefore SCDI membership for the 2000/2001 period is not renewed.

## 4 Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree to the discontinuation of SCDI membership for the year 2000/2001.



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Director of Planning & Environment

14th February 2000