

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: SCOTTISH LEARNING NETWORK - REVENUE EXPENDITURE
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 8 June 2000	Ref: REP.705	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Economic Development Committee in order to seek approval for revenue expenditure in relation to certain Scottish Learning Network (SLN) access points within North Lanarkshire.

2. Sustainability

The Scottish Learning Network (SLN) meets the sustainable development policy developed by the Council through Local Agenda 21 by addressing elements of the sections listed below:-

Section 1	“Building, Planning and Land Use”
Section 3	“Economy and Work”
Section 8	“Social Needs”
Section 10	“Participation and Democracy”
Section 11	“Partnership and Funding”

3. Background

- 3.1 The SLN is a national project, implemented by a partnership formed by the European Union, the Scottish/Highlands & Islands Enterprise Networks and the private sector. The project is funded under the ADAPT programme, with match funding provided by the Enterprise Network. The responsibility for the project implementation at local level rests with the respective Enterprise Companies, with Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire being responsible for the initiative throughout Lanarkshire.
- 3.2 The project seeks to establish a web-base platform and gateway for all potential learners in Scotland, providing a “first-stop shop” for learning and guidance. It will also improve access through networks of Learning Centres and tutors to be distributed across Scotland. The target group are short term unemployed (i.e. unemployed for less than 6 months) and employees with a low skill level (i.e. with an NVQII or below).
- 3.3 Members will recall a previous report remitted to the Economic Development Committee by the Social Inclusion Committee for information (Report dated 20 December 1999 submitted to Committee on 27 January 2000) which identified projects within the SLN which would be used as access points within North Lanarkshire.

4. Revenue Expenditure

- 4.1 Three of the SLN access points, referred to in the remit report, are co-located with Local Training Support Centres (LTSC) managed by the Economic Development Unit. These access points located in Plains, Kirkshaws and Glenboig will incur on-line expenditure when the SLN is implemented within North Lanarkshire.
- 4.2 The total funding available for the three sites from the SLN via Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire amount to £11,587 and is conditional on the Council providing the revenue expenditure for any on-line charges incurred. The Director of Planning and Environment has agreed, subject to Committee approval, to part-fund expenditure incurred as a result of on-line charges as detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Access Point	Revenue Expenditure
Plains	£1,000
Kirkshaws	£1,000
Glenboig	£1,000
TOTAL	£3,000

- 4.3 The LTSCs/SLN access points through the capital funding allocation, will benefit from refurbishment of the existing premises. including access for the disabled (Plains), broaden access to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) allow as many people as possible to access IT training, on-line and enable the access points to be linked to the Council's wide area network (WAN).
- 4.4 The revenue expenditure can be met from within existing budgetary provision,

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (I) Note the contents of this report and:
 - (II) Approve the revenue expenditure as detailed in the report.



David M Porch
Director of Planning and Environment

15 May 2000

For further information contact John Turley, Senior Economic Development Officer, Tel: 01236 616271.