

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject:  <b>SUPPORT WORKER (LOCAL TRAINING SUPPORT CENTRES) – TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF CONTRACT</b>
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 8 June 2000	Ref: REP.706	

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Economic Development Committee in order to seek approval for the temporary extension of the contract of the Support Worker (Local Training Support Centres).

### 2. Sustainability

- 2.1 The Support Officer initiative meets the sustainable development policy adopted 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 5 "Transport"

Section 8 "Social Needs"

Section 10 "Participation and Democracy"

Section 11 "Partnership and Funding"

### 3 Support Worker (Local Training Support Centres)

- 3.1 North Lanarkshire Council has developed 4 local training support centres (LTSCs) located within the Central area of North Lanarkshire. These centres, which are located in Coatbridge (Kirkshaws), Glenboig, Airdrie (Whinhall) and Plains, have been developed in partnership with representatives of the local community. The centres are strategically located within community managed facilities to ensure accessibility to members of the priority groups.

- 3.2 The ESF funded project ceased Objective 3 finance on 9 May 2000. It is the intention of the Director of Planning and Environment to apply for further ESF Objective 3 funding for this project and extend the provision of support to the Local Training Support Centres. The new Objective 3 Operational Plan has yet to be approved by the European Commission for the period 2000/2006 and has resulted in the delay of new funding applications. It is anticipated that applications for the new Objective 3 programme will be invited in June 2000 with approval, if successful, being made 2/3 months later.

3.3 The services provided by the Support Worker are seen as essential to the delivery and operation of services provided at the Local Training Support Centres. The support service provided is an essential element in the delivery of employment related training detailed in the recently completed Review of Services to Unemployed People in Lanarkshire and complements the Government's New Deal for the Unemployed.

3.4 In view of the above, the Director of Planning and Environment has approached the Head of Personnel Services in order to seek approval for the temporary extension of the Support Worker's (Grade AP3) contract for a period of four months until September 2000. The Head of Personnel Services has recently approved this request, and the Economic Development Committee is requested to homologate this decision. The cost of the contract/extension requested will be provided for within existing budgetary provision.

#### 4. Recommendation

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Note the contents of this report and:
- (ii) Approve the temporary extension of the Support Worker (Local Training Support Centres) contract, as detailed in this report and
- (iii) Homologate the recommendation in (ii) above
- (iv) Remit the report to the Personnel Services Committee for information.



**David M Porch**  
**Director of Planning and Environment**

15 May 2000

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