

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Subject: EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND APPLICATIONS – ESF OBJECTIVE 3	
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 24 August 2000	Ref : JT/EH/REP691	

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Economic Development Committee in order to seek approval for the submission of applications to the European Social Fund Objective 3 Programme for various economic development support measures.

### 2. ESF Objective 3

- 2.1 Objective 3 of the European Social Fund aims to combat long-term unemployment, and the integration of groups at risk of exclusion from the labour market, raises skill levels of those in employment and foster a more entrepreneurial culture. This is done by providing financial support towards the running costs of integrated projects.
- 2.2 The Scottish Operational Programme 2000-2006 is based on five strategic objectives.
- To develop a comparative and flexible workforce whilst reducing exclusion and preventing long term joblessness.
  - To enhance the skills and entrepreneurial base of the economy to allow Scotland to compete successfully in the global economy.
  - To promote learning and training across all sectors of the Scottish workforce.
  - To enhance the opportunities available to individuals currently excluded from economic and social activities within Scotland.
  - To ensure equality of access to, and opportunity within the Scottish economy.

### 3. ESF Objective 3 Timetable

- 3.1 The Objective 3 Operational Programme was submitted to the European Commission for approval in December 1999 and after several months of negotiations with DG Employment and Social Affairs formal approval was granted on 18 July 2000. The first call for applications under the 2000/2006 Programme has now been issued and the deadline is Friday 8 September 2000.
- 3.2 The Scottish ESF Objective 3 Programme 2000/2006 consists of 5 priorities. These are :-
- Priority 1 – Raising Employability
  - Priority 2 – Addressing Social Exclusion
  - Priority 3 – Lifelong Learning
  - Priority 4 – Supporting a Competitive Workforce and Developing Entrepreneurship
  - Priority 5 – Addressing Gender Barriers

- 3.3 Developmental work including consultation with appropriate partners is now ongoing in order that applications can meet the 8 September 2000 deadline. A requirement of ESF Objective 3 applications is that approval is obtained from the Council in order that applications are deemed competent. Given the tight deadline for applications and the Committee cycle within North Lanarkshire it is not possible to provide detailed information as to the content of applications that are proposed by the Economic Development Unit or in partnership with other bodies/agencies. Appendix 1 to this report details the intended project applications that will be submitted to the ESF Objective 3 programme. Funding for these projects is at present being determined and will be met from the existing Economic Development Unit 2000/2001 Revenue Budget.

#### 4. Recommendation

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee :-

- (i) Note the contents of this report and;
- (ii) Approve the applications for ESF Objective 3 funding as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to this report.



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**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

For further information please contact John J Turley, Senior Economic Development Officer,  
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24 August 2000

28 July 2000

## Appendix 1

## ESF Objective 3 Applications

Project Title	Council Contribution	Partners
Small Business Integrated Training Grant	64,000	SLC
Job Rotation Programme	60,000	SLC, WEA, SEL, ES
Lanarkshire Training Fund	30,000	SLC
Business Start-up in SIP Areas	25,000	SEL, SIP, SLC
Womens Placement Programme	40,000	NL Colleges, SIP
Peripatetic Employment Development Resource	85,000	SEL, ES, NL Colleges, SIP
Safer Homes Environment Task Force	30,000	Wise Group, SIP
Community Economic Regeneration Support Programme	30,000	Scottish Homes

SLC - South Lanarkshire Council  
 SEL - Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire  
 SIP - Social Inclusion Partnership  
 WEA - Workers Educational Association  
 ES - Employment Services