

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: PETERSBURN CRAIGNEUK INITIATIVE – FUNDING 2000-2001
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 24 August 2000	Ref: JT/Rep.723	

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Economic Development Committee of the outcome from a recent evaluation of Petersburn Craigneuk Initiative (PCI), and seek approval to continue funding of the initiative for the financial year 2000/2001.

2 Sustainability

- 2.1 The intended funding meets the sustainable development policy adopted by the Council through Local Agenda 21 by addressing elements of the following:-

2.2

- Section 1 - "Building, Planning and Land Use"
- Section 3 - "Economy and Work"
- Section 5 - "Transport"
- Section 8 - "Social Needs"
- Section 11 - "Partnership and Funding"

3 Introduction

- 3.1 Since 1996 Petersburn Craigneuk Initiative (PCI) has received, the sum of £15,000 per year as a contribution towards the operational management expenditure of the initiative. This funding was provided as long as Urban Programme funding was available to PCI.

- 3.2 At a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, held on 13 June 2000, approval was made to contribute £37,813 towards the Initiative's operational costs during 2000/2001. An original application for funding from PCI had been held back to the requirement that a report on the evaluation of the initiative be submitted before a financial contribution could be made. The evaluation was completed in May 2000 and, subsequently, a report by the Chief Executive was provided to the Policy and Resources Committee detailing the outcome of the evaluation.

4. PCI Evaluation

- 4.1 The evaluation brief sought not only to evaluate the impact of PCI since 1997, but required the consultants to recommend operational modifications for future activity in the light of the current and anticipated policy context such as the New Deal and other national initiatives, and finally to consider potential future performance targets.

4.2 The main conclusions can be summarised as follows:-

- PCI is now a well-developed community based initiative which has progressed a range of initiatives. It has an experienced and appropriately skilled staff team, allied to significant investment by the local community:-
- The projects most tangible successes have been in the jobs access activity with a wide range of people being assisted into the labour market;
- A significant number of social enterprise projects are at varying stages of development, although only one has commenced trading to date;
- Given the changes in the jobs access environment through the introduction of the New Deal for example, its geographical focus has in fact extended beyond Petersburn and Craigneuk to the former Monklands and wider North Lanarkshire area;
- A total of 390 clients have progressed directly into jobs since April 1997.

4.3 Given that major changes in focus are proposed, it is recommended that the year 2000/2001 is seen as a transitional period and that as such, the funding partners maintain the same level of financial support as provided in the last financial year to ensure developments are achieved successfully. This includes a sum which would represent the value of the previous contribution to PCI by the Economic Development Unit which forms part of a funding package.

4.4 Although it is not feasible to determine actual activity outputs at present the focus of support provided by PCI would cover, within the wider Monklands area, the following: -

- Advice and information
- Guidance
- Job search
- Pre-vocational training

4.5 Decisions on its future resources will be required prior to the end of the financial year, subject to the wider jobs access environment and progress in implementing the proposed operational changes.

5. Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) Note the contents of this report and;
- (ii) Approve the budgeted contribution of £15,000 as a contribution towards the operational management costs of Petersburn Craigneuk Initiatives for the financial year 2000/2001;
- (iii) Seek a further report prior to the end of the financial year on the progress with the implementation of the evaluation recommendations with appropriate future funding proposals at that time.

A copy of the PCI Evaluation Report is available from the Member's Library.



David M Porch
Director of Planning & Environment

26 July 2000

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