

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: EUROPEAN FUNDING APPLICATIONS – OBJECTIVE 2
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 25 January 2001	Ref: EB/Rep763	

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 Funds Objective 2 Programme for various economic development support measures.

2. Background

- 2.1 The new period for Social Funds will run from January 2000 to December 2006. The Western Scotland Objective 2 Programme 2000-2006 supports a vision for the region. This vision is to make Western region characterised by innovation in its businesses and economy, and able to provide a better quality of life for its people. It embraces a commitment to the ongoing regeneration that is build on its strengths and the opportunities for future economic Growth. It recognises the significant challenges that the region continues to face. It provides a basis for targeting areas of greatest need and the opportunities for job creation.

- 2.2 The West of Scotland Operational Programme 2000 - 2006 consists of three Priorities:

- To develop the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the region's SMEs.
- To develop the region as a competitive location.
- To increase the economic and social cohesion of the region.

Within these priorities the individual measures that apply include: Access to Finance for SMEs; Developing the facilities to support competitive sectors; Marketing and Promoting the Region as a competitive location; Community Area Regeneration; Routes to Opportunities.

3. Objective 2 Timetable

- 3.1 The Objective 2 Operational Programme was submitted to the European Commission for final approval in November 2000 and Programme Approval is expected in January 2001. The first call for applications under the 2000/2006 Programme is anticipated in January with an expected deadline of 21 February 2001.

3.2 Developmental work including consultation with appropriate partners is now ongoing in order that applications can meet the 21 February 2001 deadline. A requirement of Western Scotland Objective 2 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 Western Scotland Objective 2 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 Western Scotland Objective 2 funding as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to this report.



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For further information please contact Ellen Byers, Senior Economic Development Officer,
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22 December 2000

Objective 2 – Proposed Applications

Project Title	Council Contribution	Partners
Childcare Strategy	£10,000	SIP, NL Colleges
Property Initiative	£100,000	Housing, SLC
Redundancy into Employment	£40,000	SLC
SLIP into work	£5,000	SIP
Housing ILM/ETF	£55,000	ETF
Plains Environment Centre	£60,000	NLF, ETF
Logans Road ILM/ETF	£26,000	NLF, SIP
St Catherines Environmental Project	£20,000	SIP, SEL
St Catherines Employment and Training	£20,000	SIP, SEL
Sustainable Industrial Estate Project	£30,000	Incl: SEL, SEPA, SEEO, NLF, LTIC, Wise Group
BOOST for Business Start Up	£50,000	SEL, SBG
International Trade	£35,250	SEL, SLC

SLC	-	South Lanarkshire Council
SEL	-	Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire
SIP	-	Social Inclusion Partnership
WEA	-	Workers Educational Association
ES	-	Employment Services
NLF	-	North Lanarkshire Forward
ETF	-	Environmental Task Force
SEPA	-	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SEEO	-	Scottish Energy Efficiency Office
LTIC	-	Lanarkshire Technology and Innovation Centre
SBG	-	Small Business Gateway