

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: NEW DEAL 25 PLUS
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 25 January 2001	Ref: JT/DN/REP772	

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Economic Development Committee in order to seek approval for the Director of Planning and Environment to submit, on behalf of the Council an application to tender for the New Deal 25 Plus contract which will cover North Lanarkshire.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The re-engineered New Deal 25 Plus will be implemented across Great Britain with effect from April 2001. The objective of the programme is to help adults who are long-term unemployed (mainly 18 months) move into work and improve their employability. New Deal 25 Plus will offer a wide range of support, reflecting the longer duration of unemployment of its participants.
- 2.2 In June 1998 the New Deal 25 Plus was introduced across Great Britain. In November 1998 the Employment Service (ES) worked with local partners to introduce new and innovative ways of helping long-term unemployed people move into work through 28 New Deal pilots. South Lanarkshire Council were successful in obtaining the contract for the pilot which operated within Lanarkshire.

## 3. New Deal 25 Plus 2001/2004

- 3.1 New contracts for the operation of New Deal 25 Plus will come into effect from April 2001 and the Employment Service has issued tender documentation to those interested organisations who previously identified an expression of interest in the new contract. As members will be aware the Economic Development Unit is contracted to provide the Environment Task Force option of New Deal. It is with the experience gained in this option and the present and future role of the Unit and the Council in the welfare to work agenda that the Director of Planning and Environment will be submitting a tender application for the operation of the New Deal 25 Plus contract within North Lanarkshire.
- 3.2 The contract will operate for a period of 3 years, from April 2001-March 2004. Invitations to tender for the contract are required to be submitted to the Employment Service by 14 February 2001. This bid is at present the subject of on-going discussion involving officers of both North and South Lanarkshire Councils and will, in effect, present separate tenders covering the Local Authority areas on a consortium basis.

On-going discussions are also being held with specific Council departments and external organisations who will form part of the consortium tender and with those Council departments who

will require to be consulted in connection with legal, financial and staffing requirements relating to the submission of the tender documents. Confirmation will also be obtained as to the requirement to comply with Council Standing Orders in the event of a successful tender due to the nature and status of the "Managing Provider" role which the successful New Deal 25 Plus contractor will assume.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 It is recommended that the Economic Development Committee;

- (i) note the contents of this report and
- (ii) authorise the Director of Planning and Environment to submit a tender on behalf of the Council, to operate the New Deal 25 Plus contract within North Lanarkshire and,
- (iii) if successful, provide a further report to Committee on the outcome of the tender process and the operational arrangements put in place to deliver the contract.



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

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