

To: ECONOMIC REGENERATION COMMITTEE		Subject: NEW DEAL IN LANARKSHIRE - DELIVERY PROPOSAL 2006-08.
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 11 th Nov 2005	Ref: Rep1104	

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the revised contractual packaging of the New Deal Programmes in Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire from April 2006 and to seek Committee approval for PEDS to submit a partnership based tender proposal to Jobcentre Plus.

2 Background

2.1 The changing nature of Economic Development work in Scotland has resulted in the Council becoming directly involved in the delivery of services under the Governments New Deal Programme. Since August 1998 North Lanarkshire Council has been responsible, on a contractual basis, for the delivery of the Environment Task Force option of the New Deal to Jobcentre Plus.

2.2 The main elements of the current New Deal for 18 - 24 year olds include:-

The Gateway - a period of up to 4 months during which individuals receive personally tailored support designed to assist them overcome barriers to accessing employment. Should the participant not achieve employment they must participate in one of the following four options:-

- Employment Option - employment by a participating company with the first six months supported by a job subsidy training allowance.
- Full Time Education and Training Option - enrolment on a vocational course for up to 12 months related to opportunities in the labour market.
- Voluntary Sector Option - placement for 13 weeks on voluntary projects providing work experience and training aimed at moving individuals into the job market.
- **Environment Task Force (ETF)** - again a 13 week placement within the Environmental sector providing work experience and training aimed at moving individuals into employment.

2.3 Since 1998 over 2500 young people (18 to 24 years) have participated in the Environment Task Force with 54% achieving employment in 2004/05 against a contractual target of 45%.

2.4 The current ETF contract is due to terminate on the 2nd April 2006.

3 Proposals/Considerations

- 3.1 In response to a competitive tendering process the Council now has an opportunity to continue our direct involvement in the delivery of key Government Welfare To Work policy.
- 3.2 Jobcentre Plus wishes to contract with organisations to deliver the full range of New Deal requirements across Lanarkshire. In line with Jobcentre Plus's national contracting strategy they aim to reduce the overall number of contracts currently held in Lanarkshire, by offering a larger brigaded packages of provision. This package of provision will be delivered by a 'prime' contractor (this is the legal entity with whom Jobcentre Plus shall contract). The Prime contractor may then deliver some or all of the elements of provision directly themselves, or via sub-contracting arrangements with local delivery providers, or a combination of both.
- 3.3 The main elements of the revised New Deal Package in Lanarkshire incorporates:-
- Full Time Education and Training Option.
 - Voluntary Sector Option.
 - Environment Task Force.
 - New Deal 25plus Intensive Activity Period.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the Policy & Economic Development Service enter into discussion with a number of organisations and potential partners with a view to submitting a tender proposal to Jobcentre Plus to deliver the New Deal Package in Lanarkshire.
- 3.5 In addition, PEDS will also present itself to other bidders as a potential sub-contractor for the delivery of ETF so that should the consortium tender not be successful, the Service could continue to operate the ETF contract.

4 Corporate Considerations

- 4.1 The financial implications of any contract being awarded would not have any impact on existing Council budgets. All staff and associated costs will be met in full from the surplus generated from the contract income. Failure to secure some aspect of the Contracts' delivery would have an impact on the Departments budget in respect of income generation.

5 Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee :-

- i) Note the contents of this report and;
- ii) Authorise the Department to submit, both directly and/or as part of a consortium, a tender proposal to Jobcentre Plus for the delivery of New Deal beyond the current contract period;



David M Porch
Director of Planning and Environment

Date of Report: 7th November 2005

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information please contact Fraser MacKenzie, Contracts Manager, Policy & Economic Development Service at Tel 01236 616273