

REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE		Subject: FUND TO DEVELOP POST OFFICES IN DEPRIVED URBAN AREAS
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 20 February 2003	Ref: JAF/IL	

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 The report advises of a £2,000,000 fund announced by the Deputy Minister for Social Justice for the development of Post Offices in deprived urban areas.

2. **Background**

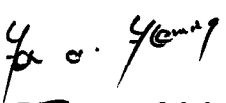
2.1 On 30 December 2002 the Deputy Minister of Social Justice announced details of a £2,000,000 fund to develop Post Offices in deprived urban areas. This fund will operate over a two year period to 31 March 2005.

2.2 The objective of this fund is to contribute to the regeneration of deprived urban areas by sustaining and improving Post Office branches on the margins of viability which provide socially important services and facilities and act as an "anchor" for other retail activities.

2.3 Applications for grant assistance from the fund will be accepted from 24 February 2003 and it is anticipated that grants -- in the form of one-off grants to a maximum of £50,000 -- for capital improvements to the non Post Office element of the business will be provided. Only Post Offices in the 20% most deprived urban areas will be eligible to apply.

3. **Council Arrangement**

3.1 The Chief Executive's Office will undertake co-ordination of all North Lanarkshire proposals with a view to North Lanarkshire Council endorsement of applications. Further details of the scheme can be obtained from Ms Mackay, Community Planning/Partnership Manager, who is based within the Civic Centre, Motherwell and can be contacted there on extension 2449.



Director of Administration

*Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.*