

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No. 7

<b>To:</b> HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	<b>Subject:</b> Funding for Refuge Development	
<b>From:</b> DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES		
<b>Date:</b> 9 January 2003	<b>Ref:</b> TMcK/PH	

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the outcome of the bid to the Scottish Executive for funding from the Domestic Abuse Refuge Accommodation Fund to develop refuge provision in North Lanarkshire.

**2. Background**

2.1 As approved by Committee in March 2001 a bid for £300,000 was submitted to the Scottish Executive for funding to develop additional refuge provision in Airdrie and Bellshill in partnership with local housing associations. It was proposed to develop 2 x 2 bed semi-detached units in Bellshill and 3 x 2 bed flats + communal facilities (within a 4 in block) in Airdrie. In both areas the accommodation would be contained within a larger new build development.

2.2 The Council was advised in June 2002 that its bid for funding in 2002/03 had been unsuccessful but that it would be considered for funding in 2003/04. At this point the Council advised the Scottish Executive that the Airdrie development was underway and requested that the location be swapped from Airdrie to Coatbridge.

**3. Proposals**

3.1 The Council was advised in December 2002 that its bid for £300,000 had been successful, although the proposed substitution of Coatbridge for Airdrie had not been noted. However in discussion with the Executive they have confirmed that in principle they have no objection to this. The funding, which is for 2003/04, will be administered through Communities Scotland to the housing associations concerned.

3.2 Discussions are now underway with the Housing Associations, Communities Scotland and Women's Aid to agree the details of the developments although as there are no 4 in block properties within the Coatbridge development alternative house types will require to be substituted.

3.3 The elected members within whose wards the refuge accommodation will be located have been contacted and are supportive of the proposals.


#### **4. Corporate Considerations**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising for the Council from this report although the revenue costs for the refuges will require to be met from the Supporting People fund. However a pipeline proposal has been submitted to the Scottish Executive who have advised that where a pipeline proposal has capital funding secured then 100% of the support costs will be paid to the Council through Supporting People.
- 4.2 The additional funding for refuges for women who have been subjected to domestic abuse, and their children, helps support the Council's Domestic Abuse Strategy, Social Inclusion Strategy and Children's Services Strategy.

#### **5. Background Information**

- 5.1 Background information is available within the Housing and Property Services Department



 Thomas McKenzie  
**Director of Housing and Property Services**