

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To	PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	Subject:	RIGHEAD SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS) (TEMPORARY POST)
From	DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date:	1 st May 2002	Ref:	D/PL/35/10

Purpose of the Report

Members will recall a report submitted to Committee on the 10th of October which outlined the Righead Sustainable Industrial Estate Project and the Department's efforts to obtain match funding from Europe to employ a Project Officer to take the project forward.

Following that Report to Committee the project was submitted to Strathclyde European Partnership (SEP) under Objective 2 Funding. Unfortunately, while SEP were very supportive of the principle of the Project, a decision to match funding the Project was deferred by the SEP Advisory Group. Based on that decision this Report outlines an alternative course of action to ensure the project moves forward and Members approval is sought for this new approach.

For Members information and background the original Committee Report is attached at Appendix 1.

Sustainability Implications

This partnership project, bringing together around eighteen organisations, is inherently sustainable as it aims to integrate service delivery to promote more sustainable business practices on the estate. It will reduce pollution, it will tackle social exclusion, it will enhance business performance and it will promote innovation and equal opportunities.

Background and Suggested Amendments to the Project

In association with the decision to defer the application for funding, the SEP Advisory Group made a recommendation that if the bid was to be resubmitted it should be under different measures. This course of action was discussed by the Department and the other project funding partners, North Lanarkshire Forward, the Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. The overwhelming agreement was that this would require the Project to be substantially reworked and would lead to the project being too restrictive and dilute the original holistic approach to this project.

- 3.1 The revised recommendation is that no European funding be sought for the Economic Development Officer and that to address the shortfall in funding the project post be funded from existing resources on a reduced contract of 2 years rather than the three years originally envisaged. The Post would advertised at AP5 Grade
- 3.2 Recognising SEP's support for the project, it was agreed that discreet elements of the Project such as landscaping of the Estate, assistance to SMEs on the industrial estate, childcare facilities, linking of SIP residents to jobs on the Estate etc could be the subject of European Funding bids in future years.
- 3.3 The Economic Development Officer will also be instrumental in engaging with businesses to implement the National Waste Strategy, assisting companies to address waste issues in a sustainable manner in order to boost business performance.
- 3.4 The funding partners have agreed to continue their support to the role for the reduced period of 2 years.

Funders are currently as follows:

North Lanarkshire Council	£50,000 (Capital = £10,000, Revenue = £40,000)
North Lanarkshire Forward	£25,000
Scottish Natural Heritage	£15,000
SEPA	£2,000
Total	£92,000 (Capital £10,000, Revenue - £82,000)

The revised proposed cost breakdown is now as follows:

Item	Original Cost (based on 3-year project with European funding)	Proposed cost based on 24-month fixed term contract with no European Funding
◆ Salary cost (AP5)	(AP5-PO6) £111,957 (3-years)	£58,428
◆ Travel cost	£1,215	£2,000
◆ Marketing	£12,000	£2,000
◆ Administration	£4,045	£2,000
◆ Capital Equipment	£1,000	£1,000
◆ Consultancy	£39,900	£5,000
◆ Web-site	£4,700	£4,700
Total	£174,817.00	£75,128

3.5 The biggest reductions in costs would be around consultancy and marketing which are areas where the European funding was adding value. Given the web-site is now almost complete – marketing can be restricted on the project. Based on revenue costs this provides £6,872 of extra lee-way with costings at this stage which could be used to fund any additional consultancy that may be required.

3.6 In addition to the above the Council has committed £10K from its capital budget to the project.

Recommendation

The Planning and Environment Committee is asked to:

- i) approve the funding of this post, as detailed above, in order to take this exciting project forward;
- ii) approve the appointment of a Economic Development Officer to deliver this project on a fixed 24 month contract at the salary scale AP5;
- iii) remit this Report to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee;



 David M. Porch
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

For further information please contact Alan Hendry on 01236 616243 or Ellen Byers on 01236 616275

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	Subject: RIGHEAD SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PROJECT OFFICER
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	
Date: 10 October 2001	Ref: D/PL/35/10

Purpose of the Report

1. The Council is co-ordinating a new project aimed at assisting businesses on the Righead Industrial Estate to become more sustainable and build stronger links with the Motherwell North Social Inclusion Partnership. This aim will be achieved through a partnership of organisations that will assist the businesses located on the Righead Estate. In order to move the project forward it is proposed to employ a Project Officer to drive the initiative on and this is subject to match funding from Europe. This post would also be funded through a partnership involving Scottish Natural Heritage and North Lanarkshire Forward. Members approval is sought for the Council's contribution to this exciting initiative and the appointment of the Project officer on a three year fixed term contract..

Sustainability Implications

2. This partnership project, bringing together around eighteen organisations, is inherently sustainable as it aims to integrate service delivery to promote more sustainable business practices on the estate. It will reduce pollution, it will tackle social exclusion, it will enhance business performance and it will promote innovation and equal opportunities.

Project Description and Background

3. The introduction of the National Waste Strategy, the Climate Change Levy and new water charges are going to impact on business environment and costs. In order to understand fully these impacts and provide a model of good practice, this partnership project will provide advice and practical help to businesses. The Project will also be aimed at linking the employment and training opportunities on the estate with the Motherwell North Social Inclusion Partnership.
4. The aim of this innovative project is to build a partnership with a range of organisations and the occupiers of the site to develop best sustainable practice in a range of areas. The main ones which will benefit businesses are:
 - Reducing costs for businesses through waste minimisation and energy efficiency
 - Improving training for employees
 - Promoting health, social well-being and safety of employees
 - Enhancing the physical environment of the estate

Such is the breadth of the aims of this project means that it inevitably makes a significant contribution to integrated corporate and partnership working. Given that it covers business support, environmental management, transport, training, health, childcare and safety, means that this project contributes to implementing all the Community Plan and Corporate Plan Themes, as well as implementing national policies such as the Scottish Climate Change Programme and the National Waste Strategy.

It is intended that the Project Officer will be employed through the Council for three years on a fixed term contract and will be supervised by a management committee comprising the main Project partners. Ideally the Officer will be housed on the estate and it is intended that the private sector is approached to provide office accommodation within Righead.

5. It is hoped that through this project an integrated model of assistance can be established that can be replicated across the industrial estates of North Lanarkshire.
6. At present the main members of the Partnership include: -
- North Lanarkshire Council
 - Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire
 - Motherwell North SIP
 - Small Business Gateway Motherwell
 - Employment Service
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 - Lanarkshire Health Board
 - West of Scotland Water
 - Scottish Energy Efficiency Office
 - Strathclyde Police
 - Envirowise
 - North Lanarkshire Forward
 - Strathclyde Fire Brigade
 - National Engineering Laboratory
 - Bell College
 - Scottish Natural Heritage
 - Health and Safety Executive
 - Lanarkshire Technology and Innovation Centre
 - Scottish Oil Care Campaign

Project Funding

7. The proposed budget for the project is £184,271. Of this sum, £179,571 is eligible for 50% match funding from ERDF which would amount to £89,784. This leaves £89,784 to be met by the Council and its partners. North Lanarkshire Forward has already approved £25,000 towards the cost of the project and Scottish Natural Heritage have indicated their in-principle support of £5,000 per annum for three years. The remaining costs of the project would be supplied by the Council. This would comprise £39,784 revenue funding over three years plus £10,000 capital in year one. The North Lanarkshire Council funding would come from existing North Lanarkshire Council Planning and Environment budgets.

Recommendation

8. Members are asked to approve the funding of this post, as detailed above, in order to take this exciting project forward.

Members are also asked to approve, in principle, the appointment of a Project Officer to deliver this project on a fixed 3 year contract to accord with the European funding bid.

Remit this Report to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee.

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David M. Porch
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

26 September 2001

For further information please contact Alan Hendry on 01236 616243.