

**EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON
20 SEPTEMBER 2005****ROUTES TO INCLUSION COMMUNITY PLANNING PILOT**

50. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 August 2005 by the Chief Executive (1) indicating that an Unemployed Service Provision Community Planning Pilot was being undertaken on behalf of the Lanarkshire Routes to Inclusion Partnership by an officer from the Economic Development Section to identify service improvements within the Airdrie Area Committee neighbourhood which will improve the co-ordination of partner services; (2) advising that the Scottish Executive Community Regeneration Fund had provided funding for the "Get Lanarkshire Working Initiative" to encourage staff to promote employment as an option to clients with whom they are in contact, and (3) proposing that, to ensure the inclusion of all the findings from these initiatives within the final Community Planning Pilot report, the Research and Development Co-ordinator post be extended to 31 December 2005 at a cost of £9,360 to be met from the Community Planning Pilot budget.

Decided:

- (1) that the funding of £9,360, to be met from unallocated funds in the Scottish Executive's Community Budgeting Fund, for the continuation of the post of Research and Development Co-ordinator until 31 December 2005 be approved;
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Planning and Environment Committee and the Policy and Resources (Establishment Monitoring) Sub-Committee for approval, and
- (3) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.

To: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		Subject: ROUTES TO INCLUSION COMMUNITY PLANNING PILOT
From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
Date: 31 August 2005	Ref: JK/012/01	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek the Committee's approval to extend the funding for the Research and Development Post to implement the good practice identified by the Routes to Inclusion Community Planning Pilot in Airdrie.

2. Background

- 2.1 Proposals to implement two initiatives funded by the Scottish Executive's Community Budgeting initiative were first put to the Committee in January 2003. After consideration by the North Lanarkshire Partnership, two areas of partnership services were selected: Chronic Disease Management in Cumbernauld and Kilsyth and Supporting Unemployed People into Work in Airdrie and District. Although this national initiative was subsequently withdrawn by the Minister, funding was continued to allow the North Lanarkshire Partnership to complete the work it had started.

3. Proposals/Considerations

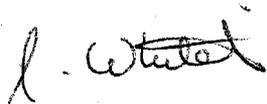
- 3.1 As part of the NLP's commitment to explore best practice in terms of community planning an officer from Economic Development is currently working on an Unemployed Service Provision Community Planning Pilot on behalf of the Lanarkshire Routes to Inclusion (RTI) partnership.
- 3.2 The aims of the RTI Community Planning Pilot are to analyse unemployed service provision within the Airdrie Area Committee area and identify service improvements that will improve the co-ordination of partner services. A number of community engagement events have been held to help meet this aim. This includes a series of focus groups with unemployed clients and workshops with staff across the public sector who work with unemployed residents. Analysis from the Community Planning Pilot is therefore being used to inform service improvements.
- 3.3 The introduction of the Scottish Executive Community Regeneration fund provides an opportunity to more closely examine some of the lessons learned within this pilot. Consistent with ongoing work by the Scottish Executive to promote an inclusive 'Employability Framework', a Lanarkshire wide campaign has been initiated to 'Get Lanarkshire Working'. The objective of the project is to encourage staff, from across council departments and the voluntary sector, to consider the positive contribution that they can make to promote employment as an option to clients that they are in contact with. The 'Get Lanarkshire Working' initiative is being funded from the Community Regeneration fund with events initially being held throughout July, August and September.

- 3.4 The Routes to Inclusion group is also keen to consider how lessons learned from the Airdrie pilot work can more generally be applied to other areas of Lanarkshire. A small group has been convened to progress this aim.
- 3.5 To ensure that progress from Get Lanarkshire Working events and conclusions reached from the small RTI group are highlighted in the final Community Planning Pilot report, which is to be issued to the Scottish Executive, it is recommended that the officer working on the Community Planning Pilot has his contract extended to 31/12/05.
- 3.6 The total cost of continuing to employ the Research & Development Co-ordinator until the 31/12/05 would be £9,360. These costs can be met from the existing Community Planning Pilot budget, which is being wholly funded by the Scottish Executive and no additional Council staff costs will be incurred.

4. Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve funding of £9360 for the above to be met from unallocated funds in the Scottish Executive's Community Budgeting fund;
- (ii) remit the report to the Planning and Environment Committee and the Policy and Resources Establishment Monitoring Sub-Committee for approval, and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.



Chief Executive
26 August 2005.