

REPORT

To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	Subject: Externally Funded Extension to Temporary Contracts for the EQUAL Access Programme
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	
Date: 28 th March 2007	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a fully externally funded extension to the temporary contracts of the EQUAL Programme Co-ordinator and the EQUAL Performance and Finance Officer to end December 2007.

2. Equal Programme Background

- 2.1 Equal Access is a large scale European funded initiative, designed to tackle the barriers experienced by disadvantaged groups in entering or re-entering the labour market. North Lanarkshire Council leads the partnership and co-ordinates the activity of 14 other partners across Scotland and is responsible to the partners for the successful delivery of the project. North Lanarkshire Council has led the Equal Access Development Partnership in Phase 1 and 2 of the project and is leading and will continue to lead the Partnership in Phase 3 which has funding until December 2007.
- 2.2 The committee agreed in December 2004 to a staff re-profile for the project and the appointment of two posts to the initiative: an Equal Programme Co-ordinator that was at PO5/6 and is now NLC 13 and an Equal Performance and Finance Officer which was at AP5/PO2 and is now at NLC 10.
- 2.3 Since that report was written the project has received approval from Scottish Ministers in August of 2006 for a further phase of activity. Action 3 will disseminate and mainstream activity through key partner meetings, seminars and publications. This phase has received funding up till the end of December 2007 and will fully fund the continued employment of project staff until then. The costs of the two posts will be met, as before, from the contributions from the European Commission and the Equal Access partners.

3. Corporate Considerations

- 3.1 The Head of Personnel Services and Finance Department staff have been consulted on this report.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1. These posts are essential to the completion of Action 3 of the programme and to the submission of final claims for the programme to the Objective 3 secretariat on behalf of the partners and the Council. It is very important to retain the staff in these posts to complete the programme activity.

5. Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee.

- (a) Approve the extension of temporary post of Equal Programme Co-ordinator (NLC13) to the end of the funded period for Action 3 i.e. 31st December 2007
- (b) Approve the extension of temporary post of Equal Performance and Finance Officer (NLC10) to the end of the funded period for Action 3 i.e. 31st December 2007
- (c) Remit this report to the Policy & Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for approval



David M. Porch
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
20th February 2007

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Diane McGill External Funding Team Leader on 01236 618081