

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Policy and Resources Community Development Sub-Committee		Subject: Urban Programme - Joint Management and Supervision of Projects with East Dunbartonshire Council
From: Chief Executive		
Date: 2 October 1996	Ref: MQ/JRC	

1. Background

- 1.1 As a direct result of Local Government Reorganisation there are several Urban Programme funded projects with an operational remit covering areas of North Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire. Given the nature of the projects and their limited lifespan it would be inappropriate to sub-divide them into two separate operations and accordingly joint management and supervision arrangements are required.
- 1.2 Each of the projects are targeted on the following eligible Urban Programme areas - Hillhead (East Dunbartonshire) Cardowan, Mount Ellen and Moodiesburn (North Lanarkshire).
- 1.3 Discussions have been ongoing with East Dunbartonshire Council with a view to establishing joint management arrangement for all projects.
- 1.4 The projects have been transferred to North Lanarkshire Council in name only, no budget allocation was disaggregated from Strathkelvin District Council in respect of the 25% Council contribution to Urban Programme. East Dunbartonshire Council has the total budget allocation and, to date, has been managing these projects. It is proposed that East Dunbartonshire Council continue to directly supervise these projects.
- 1.5 East Dunbartonshire Council will be eligible, in line with the Scottish Office terms and conditions on grant claims, to claim an administration fee of 2.5% of the current grant claim. There will be no cost to North Lanarkshire Council.
- 1.6 The Scottish Office have indicated that they have no concerns regarding East Dunbartonshire Council being the lead authority for these projects.

2. Considerations

- 2.1 It is essential to ensure that North Lanarkshire Council residents eligible for Urban Programme assistance in these areas have access to, and are supported in, the use of resources and facilities available.

2.2 Detailed below is a profile of each project together with identified issues.

Project Name: Strathkelvin Business Links **Project No:** 124
(Strathkelvin Business Partnership)

Termination Date: January 1997

Project Description: This is a two year project which commenced in January 1995. The objective of this project is to provide training for 15 people in business administration skills and ,through a practical project, develop their in-work skills. The project currently targets all the eligible areas and there is agreement with East Dunbartonshire that training providers with a service provision within North Lanarkshire areas are targeted. Where training may not be located within North Lanarkshire, travelling expenses for trainees will be met.

Issues: Due to the population characteristics within the eligible areas in North Lanarkshire, the current service provision is 50/50 North Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire. This project currently has no staff in place and given Urban Programme funding is due to terminate in January 1997 it is unrealistic to attempt to fill this post. It is proposed that it would be appropriate to use the remaining period of the project to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the project's achievements throughout it's lifespan with a view to making proposals on the future of the project following the termination of Urban Programme funding.

Project Name: Strathkelvin Liftoff **Project No:** 125

Termination Date: March 1998

Project Description: This project provides support to unemployed people with the first step into employment and training through the use of a grant.

Issues: Take up has been low within the North Lanarkshire eligible areas with the majority of awards going to Hillhead (East Dunbartonshire) area. There is a need to actively promote this scheme in the eligible North Lanarkshire areas and to develop some flexibility in relation to the operations of this project. It is proposed that where funding is underspent in one area it may be re-allocated to an area where demand is higher. It would be more appropriate that money be allocated between the authorities' clients on a 50/50 basis initially. It is proposed that eligible areas within North Lanarkshire are targeted over the following 3 months. A review will be carried out in 3 months to assess the grant take-up within all eligible areas.

Project Name: Mobile Crèche **Project No:** 123

Termination Date: April 1997

Project Description: The project provides crèche facilities to groups and projects operating within the eligible areas and provides crèche support for training activities.

Issues: The lack of community facilities within eligible North Lanarkshire Council areas has adversely affected the development of this project within these areas. The current service delivery is 35:65 in favour of East Dunbartonshire. Given the short timescale remaining for the project, and the location of community facilities it is unlikely that the proportion of service delivery can be materially altered.

Project Name: Action for Health **Project No:** 122

Termination Date: November 1997

Project Description: This project is aimed at improving the lifestyle of the residents of eligible areas. The project has been operating successfully in all areas.

Issues: Service provision to date has been 60:40 in favour of North Lanarkshire. Problems have arisen since re-organisation due to pricing policy with a reduction in usage within North Lanarkshire.

Project Name: Strathkelvin Open Learning **Project No:** 137

Termination Date: February 1998

Project Description: This project provides a part-time open-learning officer to provide information and advice to residents within eligible areas taking part in open learning courses

Issues: There are currently no Open Learning facilities operational within the North Lanarkshire eligible areas. It is possible that facilities could be provided in these areas following discussion with the Leisure Services Department. Where Open Learning Facilities become available it is anticipated that this project will provide resources and support where required.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee

- (a) agree that the aforementioned projects continue to operate under the direct supervision of East Dunbartonshire Council;

- (b) authorise the Chief Executive
 - (i) to agree financial management, administration, and monitoring and evaluation procedures with East Dunbartonshire Council,
 - (ii) to ensure that effective mechanisms are in place to allow North Lanarkshire Council residents continued access to the available Urban Programme resources, and
 - (iii) to submit a copy of this report to the Scottish Office; and
- (c) otherwise note the contents of this report.


Chief Executive