

To: Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee	Subject: CUMBERNAULD AND KILSYTH UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' CENTRE: FUNDING REQUEST TO CONTINUE FURNITURE RECYCLING PROJECT
From: Chief Executive	
Date: 26 May 1998	Ref: CE012/004/025

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee to consider the funding request submitted by Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Furniture recycling Project copy attached as Appendix One.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 26 November 1997 the Community Development Sub-Committee awarded the Unemployed Workers' Centre the sum of £2,500 to pilot the furniture project in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth, Moodiesburn, Chryston and Stepps areas for a three month period. In addition, Cumbernauld Area Committee at its meeting on 3 February 1998 awarded the project £814.50.

- 2.2 The Community Development Sub-Committee further agreed that a detailed report on the outcomes of the pilot project should be submitted to the Council at the end of this period.

3.0 OPERATION OF THE FURNITURE RECYCLING PROJECT.

- 3.1 During the three month pilot period the project has assisted 74 householders from the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Northern Corridor areas. In addition a number of enquires have also been received from Airdrie and Coatbridge areas.

- 3.2 The project has advertised widely in the local press and local venues with articles and posters both seeking donations of unwanted furniture or household items and raising awareness of the service. In addition, the project has received a number of referrals from the Social Work Area Team.

- 3.3 The project is generally available to all local residents within the designated areas. Those householders in receipt of furniture or other items are requested to pay the delivery charge and a nominal charge for the item depending on its quality. These fees are used to offset operational costs within the project. Priority is given to families in receipt of Income Support and elderly people.

- 3.4 The project employs a local van driver on a casual basis to uplift and deliver furniture. A number of local volunteers also work within the project to clean, restore and carry out necessary repairs to furniture. Safety checks on electrical items are carried out by Cumbernauld College students.

- 3.5 Donated items of furniture are stored within the former Job Centre premises, owned by North Lanarkshire Council and leased to the Unemployed Workers Centre on a week to week basis at a nominal rent. The Council recently installed security grills to the premises at a cost of some £4,000, after a break-in to the project.

3.6 The project is managed by the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Unemployed Workers' Centre the administrative support provided by Centre staff. The Centre's existing Education Worker has generally been responsible for developing, advertising and managing the project on an operational basis.

4.0 FUNDING REQUEST

4.1 The level of funding requested by the Unemployed Workers' Centre to continue the furniture recycling project during the remainder of this financial year is £23,750. This is detailed below:-

i.	Contribution to existing Education Worker's salary	£10,000
ii.	Administration costs	£ 1,250
iii.	Cleaning, refurbishing, testing	£ 500
iv.	Storage costs	<u>£12,000</u>
v.	TOTAL	<u>£23,750</u>

4.2 With reference to the above budget, it is worthwhile highlighting the following points. Firstly, the salary contribution will be used to augment the existing core grant totalling £28,900 and awarded to the Unemployed Workers Centre in 1998/99 by North Lanarkshire Council. Given that the Council is presently supporting the Education Worker's post through grant aid it is recommended that additional funds are not awarded for this purpose and responsibility for the furniture recycling project becomes a recognised remit of the Unemployed Workers' Centre. Secondly, the sum of £12,000 identified for storage is not required since the existing premises are due to be demolished in approximately five months time as part of the re-development of Cumbernauld Town Centre. It must be remembered however, that the Unemployed Workers' Centre itself will be affected by this re-development and will require to relocate to alternative premises. Accordingly, it is suggested that consideration of funding for storage purposes is deferred for further information on the timescale which both the Unemployed Workers' Centre and furniture project will be required to vacate and also alternative premises options.

4.3 It is understood that transport costs associated with the furniture recycling project are largely met by individual users of the service. It is recognised however that there are costs associated with cleaning and repairing furniture where necessary. In addition, the Unemployed Workers Centre does incur increased administration costs associated with supporting the project. It is therefore recommended that the Community Development Sub Committee agrees, in principle, to award the Unemployed Workers' Centre the sum of £1,750 in respect of administration and cleaning costs for the furniture restoration project during 1998/99. Given the uncertainty regarding premises for both the Unemployed Workers' Centre and the furniture recycling project it is recommended that this grant is released in two instalments with the release of the second instalment dependant upon the continued availability or the identification of suitable alternative premises.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

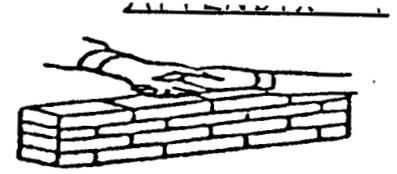
5.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:-

- i. approve in principle an award of £1,750 in 1998/99 to Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Unemployed Workers' Centre from the Chief Executive's Payments to Agencies and Other Bodies Budget to assist with cleaning and administration costs associated with the furniture recycling project;
- ii. agree that the grant is released in two instalments with the release of the second instalment subject to the continued availability of premises;
- iii. agree to defer consideration of the application for funding for storage premises pending a future report on the necessity for such premises, potential locations and the costs involved;

- iv. refuse the application for contributory staffing costs and recommend that responsibility for developing the furniture part of the existing Education Worker's remit; and
- v. otherwise note the contents of this report.


P. J. Costello
Chief Executive

Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Unemployed Workers Centre



Town Centre South, Cumbernauld G67 1BL & 14 King Street, Kilsyth G65 OAW

RECAP **Recycling Emergency Community Action Project**

CONTENTS

1. Background to the Application
2. Parameters of the Application
3. The Application in Detail

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Funded by North Lanarkshire Council Sponsored by Cumbernauld & District Trades Council

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

Background

Observing the regular daily and weekly work done by the Realm Project (formerly Craigneuk, currently in Overtown) and noting the occasional offers of and requests for help with household goods made to the Centre itself in the Cumbernauld Area, it was resolved to pilot a similar facility in Cumbernauld Town Centre by the Unemployed Workers' Centre.

Community Development provided £2,500 for a four-month period and an additional £800 was received from Area Committee funds towards a total of £4,000.

Through the help and advice of the Property Sub Division of Planning and Development, a free let was secured of the former Employment Agency Property immediately adjacent to the Unemployed Workers' Centre. This allowed Project to commence in January of this year to accommodate a wide range of household goods and also to advertise their availability to appropriate people. [In this last matter, the Project, eventually named 'RECAP' adopted a policy of charging modest prices for various items in order to separate the genuinely needy from the simply greedy. It must be noted that the REALM Project imposes no charge at all but might consider a delivery charge].

Later a more extensive and elaborate advertisement was placed in local papers reaching a readership in excess of 100,000 people. Contacts with Churches and local charitable organisations have been established but only slowly due to other heavy staff commitments as part of the Centres ongoing workload. In the meantime, RECAP has suffered from several 4 burglaries and some vandalism but these have now ceased due to increased security measures.

In the most recent of times, it was impossible to release electrical goods to clients until such times as the these items were properly tested by a qualified person; Ian McCafferty of REALM came to RECAP's rescue to clear this bottle neck (a harbinger of future co-operation?) a portable appliance tester has recently been purchased and calibrated. The Cumbernauld College has expressed a keen interest in carrying out repairs and testing of all the electrical items given trainees as well as our existing volunteer workforce valuable hands on experience and providing the College with an external training facility.

The existing voluntary workforce consists of nine regular workers aged from seventeen to sixty both male and female who apply a variety of skills carrying out all manner of repairs and cleaning of household items. A number of these individuals are interested in acquiring Certificated skills as part of the College provision.

The feasibility period for the project was an eleven week period from **19th January 98** to **3rd April 98** during this time we have been able to establish, assist provide all of the following:

1. During the 11-week feasibility period the Project assisted 74 individuals and families within the NLC areas of Cumbernauld & Kilsyth with all manner of both essential and non-essential household items.
2. The Project has enabled retired people and those with varying degrees of disabilities to actively resume a useful and meaningful role within our communities. This takes the form of carrying out furniture repairs utilising their own individuals skills and interests. The change in some of our volunteers often becomes visibly apparent within a very short space of time. This is possibly due to the wide variety of items, the physical lifting involved and being able to realise the true value of the very large floor space.

THE CENTRE PROMOTES A HEAVY EMPHASIS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY.

This Application

In the opinion of the Centre staff (and of Councillor V Murray who has kept a close and critical eye on RECAP) the Project has succeeded, is meeting a wide range of needs and ought to be continued and extended.

Priorities in the application must be:

- (a) a contribution to salary, to be agreed with the Unemployed Workers' Centre;
- (b) a contribution to the Centre's running costs (mainly telephone/clerical);
- (c) Since the former Employment Agency premises will be demolished in at best 5 months some money will need to be set aside to meet the costs of a new/alternative storage space which might be as much as 12K-20K per annum.

Application

Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Unemployed Workers' Centre subsidiary known as RECAP hereby formally apply to North Lanarkshire Council for funding for the year **May 1998 – April 1999 of £23,750**

Calculated as follows:

- £ **10,000** to meet expenses in regard to salary
{66% of an existing employee salary}
- £ **1,250** to meet expenses for shared costs of office and telephone
{Established as £300 per quarter during the feasibility period}
- £ **Nil** to meet costs of transportation to and from storage this is
Monies that can be recovered from the recipients of goods
- £ **500** to meet costs of cleaning, refurbishing and testing
- £ **12,000** to meet potential storage costs (held separately)

Date

5/10/98

8/4/98

Signed:

Denis Hackett

Martin Welsh

Centre Manager/
Denis Hackett

Management Committee
Chairman/Martin Welsh

A balance sheet outlining the income and expenditure for the feasibility period shall be made available beyond the end of the twelfth week ending 10th April 98