

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Policy and Resoruces (Community Development) Sub Committee	Subject: CHRYSTON AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION FUNDING REQUEST
From: Chief Exeuctive	
Date: 17 November 1998	Ref: CE012/004/011C

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee to consider a request from Chryston and District Credit Union for funding to upgrade their computer requirement.

2.0 Background

2.1 At its meeting on 22 April 1998 the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive detailing a suggested strategy for the promotion and development of community based credit unions in North Lanarkshire, and requesting the Sub Committee to ring-fence the sum of £5,000 within the Chief Executive's Payments to Agencies and Other Bodies budget 1998/99 to support local credit union initiatives.

2.2 When considering the Credit Union Support and Development Strategy the Sub Committee noted the benefits to be gained by credit unions when transferring from a manual book-keeping system to computerised accounts. The Sub Committee further noted that credit unions may maximise the potential of any word-processing or desk top publishing software packages installed within the computer to assist with credit union correspondence, administrative procedures and the production of publicity materials.

3.0 Chryston and District Credit Union

3.1 Chryston and District Credit Union has been operational for eleven years and currently has 450 active members and in excess of £95,000 in assets. The credit union serves a large rural bond including the villages of Chryston, Moodiesburn, Bridgend, Muirhead, Mount Ellen and Mollinsburn.

Whilst the credit union has operated a computerised accounting system for several years, the computer hardware is now outdated with insufficient memory capacity to manage the credit union accounts. In addition, the computer does not have up to date software and this limits the opportunity for the credit union to use the equipment for any purpose other than accounting. The credit union Board of Directors is seeking to upgrade their existing equipment and has submitted an application to North Lanarkshire Council for funding to purchase a computer, "Windows 98" software and printer. The total cost, including a three year warranty for the hardware and software is quoted at some £2,580.00.

4.0 Council Support

4.1 Whilst it is recognised that credit unions should aim to be self sufficient, it is appreciated that there may be stages in a credit union's development where additional or targeted support is required.

4.2 The Council's Credit Union support and Development Strategy recommends that, subject to resource availability, strategic finding may be awarded by the Council to those credit unions seeking to computerise their accounting and administrative procedures. Indeed, members will recall that as part of the initial development of the Credit Union Strategy, funding was awarded in 1997/98 to computerise those credit unions in North Lanarkshire which still operated a manual book-keeping system. The individual sum allocated for each computer, printer and soft-ware package was £1,500.

4.3 The remaining balance within the Credit Union budget described in Section 2 of this report is £2,100. Given both the capacity of the credit union to generate income through its own activities, and the previous awards to other credit unions for a similar purpose, it is recommended that a grant of £1,500 be awarded to Chryston and District Credit Union.

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 The Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee is requested to:

- i) approve an award of £1,500 to Chryston and District Credit Union to assist in upgrading computer equipment; and
- ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.


M Chief Executive