

AGENDA ITEM No. 4(a) NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT

To: ESTABLISHMENT MONITORING COMMITTEE	SUBJECT: E-PLANNING PROJECT MANAGER	
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 11 December 2006	Ref: PI/EPT/04/04/04/LN	

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek homologation for the creation of a temporary post of E-Planning Project Manager within the Department of Planning and Environment **for a period of two years.**

**2. Context**

- 2.1 The E-Planning Efficient Government Programme is a partnership being led by the Scottish Executive, and includes all Scottish Local Authorities, the two National Park Authorities, the Scottish Executive Inquiry Reporters and a number of statutory consultee organisations.
- 2.2 The Programme will radically change the delivery of planning services and drive forward efficiencies in the planning system. It will enable people to apply for planning permission online, allow people to view development plans online and find out which planning policies affect their property, provide online access to planning applications and make it simpler for people to have their planning queries answered online.
- 2.3 The estimated cost of the programme is £12 million and estimated savings after 10 years are up to £44 million. To deliver the programme a joint bid was made for funding and this was approved by the Minister for Finance and Public Sector Reform in August this year. North Lanarkshire will receive £240,000 of E-Planning goods and services from the fund. The council's contribution to the programme is £87,220, and this funding has previously been agreed and committed within the Corporate IT Capital Programme (£40,000 in 2006/07 and £49,000 in 2007/08).

**3. E-Planning Project Manager**

- 3.1 The Programme will be directed by the E-Planning Programme Board in association with the E-Planning Group, the latter comprising a representative from each partner organisation. To sit on this group the Scottish Executive has requested that each partner appoints a Project Manager for the two year life of the project. Training is being provided for these appointed managers.
- 3.2 To comply with the tight timescales for the identification of the Project Manager this post has been internally advertised within the Planning Service and a temporary appointment has been made. The Project Manager Post is graded at NLC 13 and is for a 2 year period. The post is to be based at Fleming House within the Planning Service. The full year cost of the post is £43,610, giving a total cost of £87,220 during the 2 year programme. The staff costs can be met in full from the previously agreed funding described in 2.3 above.

#### **4. Corporate Considerations**

- 4.1 The implementation of this project contributes towards several of the corporate aims of the council by modernising the planning service, by making it more open and accountable, by increasing accessibility and improving efficiency.

#### **5. Sustainable Development Implications**

- 5.1 By monitoring and enabling e-communication the Programme will allow savings in terms of time, travel, use of paper and printing for the Council and its customers.

#### **6. Recommendation**

- 6.1 It is recommended that:

- The Committee homologates the creation of a temporary post of E-Planning Project Manager (NLC 13) to be based within the Planning Service for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008
- That this report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee and the Planning and Environment Committee for homologation.



**David M. Porch**

**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Shirley Linton, 01236 616405.