

EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 APRIL 1999

LAUNCHPAD - FUNDING 1999/2000

5. **C** There was submitted a report dated 15 April 1999 by the Acting Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising that Launchpad is a training project based in Chryston which works with a range of clients and was inherited by North Lanarkshire Council from Strathkelvin District Council, following its termination of urban programme funding; (2) intimating that a contribution of £25,000 per annum is made from North Lanarkshire Council towards the core costs of the project, subject to other partners, namely East Dunbartonshire Council, Dunbartonshire Enterprise and Lanarkshire Development Agency, making similar commitments; (3) indicating that the Planning and Development Department acts as a supervising department for this project, with Councillor Charles Gray representing North Lanarkshire Council on the Board of Directors; (4) advising that the Board of Directors commissioned Blake Stephenson, Consultants in Economic and Social Development, to undertake a review of the project, providing the basis for the preparation of a strategy and business plan to enable the long-term survival of the project; (5) intimating that the outcome of this review was the recommendation, to the Board, of a two centred delivery mechanism, with an additional centre being located in Kirkintilloch which would meet the needs of clients from the East Dunbartonshire area; (6) outlining the support by East Dunbartonshire and Dunbartonshire Enterprise of this approach which would address their concern that their clients were not able to access the service at a local level; (7) intimating that a request for an increase of funding of £40,000 had been received from the Board in order to facilitate this two centred approach; (8) advising that the Economic Development Manager sought additional funding for the project through the budget process, however, this was unsuccessful; (9) intimating that Launchpad has established strong links with a number of agencies across Lanarkshire including Summerlee Training Resource Unit, with the Manager of Launchpad being kept apprised of the development of the North Lanarkshire Training Resource Unit and the intention to establish a series of local training support centres across Lanarkshire; (10) advising that following discussions between Officers from the Departments of Planning and Development, Social Work and Education concerns have been raised in relation to the value of the outputs of this project and similarly its compliance with the Council's recently launched supported employment initiative; (11) proposing that as the full request of £40,000 could not be granted due to the current financial climate a contribution of £10,000 be made from each of the Departments of Education, Planning and Development and Social Work; (12) proposing that, in line with all other external bodies funded by the Department of Planning and Development, a service level agreement be put in place with quarterly monitoring reports being submitted to Committee; (13) detailing the conditions of the offer of £30,000, and (14) proposing that a Senior Economic Development Officer be appointed to supervise the project with the responsibility of bringing quarterly monitoring reports to Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of £10,000 from the budget of the Economic Development Unit to support Launchpad be approved;
- (2) that the matter be remitted to Social Work and Education Committees for their consideration;
- (3) that the matter be remitted to Policy and Resources Committee for information, and
- (4) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: LAUNCHPAD - FUNDING 1999/2000
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 15 April 1999	Ref: MMcC/EH.REP547	

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to approve funding for the Launchpad project for 1999/2000.

2 Background

- 2.1 Launchpad is a training project based in Chryston which works with a range of clients including those with learning difficulties, disabilities, and the long term unemployed from within that area. The project was inherited by North Lanarkshire Council from Strathkelvin Council following its termination of urban programme funding. A commitment had been carried forward to North Lanarkshire Council of a contribution of £25,000 per annum to the core costs of the project, subject to the other partners in Launchpad making similar commitments. The partners have been East Dunbartonshire Council, Dunbartonshire Enterprise and the Lanarkshire Development Agency who have each matched this Council's £25,000 contribution.
- 2.2 The Planning & Development Department acted as supervising department for this project and the Council has one representative on the Board of Directors, Councillor Charles Gray.
- 2.3 In order to establish a more secure future for the project the Board of Directors commissioned Blake Stephenson, Consultants in Economic and Social Development to undertake a review of the project providing the basis for the preparation of a strategy and business plan to enable the long term survival of the project. The outcome of this piece of work was the recommendation to the Board of a two centred delivery mechanism for the project, i.e. retaining the existing presence in Chryston and developing a new centre in a bespoke building in Kirkintilloch to meet the needs of the clients from the East Dunbartonshire area. Throughout the life of the project East Dunbartonshire Council has been concerned that clients from their area were not able to access the service at a local level despite their financial commitment to the project. For this reason Dunbartonshire Enterprise and East Dunbartonshire Council strongly support the two centred approach.
- 2.4 The Board of Launchpad wrote to North Lanarkshire Council requesting an increase in funding from the current level of £25,000 to an annual figure of £40,000 in order to facilitate the two centred approach. On receipt of this request the Economic Development Manager sought additional funding for the project through the budget process. This was not successful. She also undertook a meeting with the Project Manager at Launchpad and representatives from East Dunbartonshire Council to discuss the future of the project.

- 2.5 The Launchpad project has established strong links with a number of agencies across Lanarkshire, including Summerlee Training Resource Unit. The Manager of Launchpad has been kept apprised of the development of the North Lanarkshire Training Resource Unit and the intention to establish a series of local training support centres across Lanarkshire. The accommodation in Chryston, could potentially provide a base for the establishment of the local training support centre in that area and preliminary discussions are currently underway with the project to establish the feasibility of this option for the future.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 Discussions between the Planning & Development, Social Work and Education Departments have raised a number of questions about the value of the outputs of this project, in both qualitative and quantitative terms. The project's fit with the Council's recently launched supported employment initiative is also questionable. It is anticipated that these issues will be addressed within the review of services to unemployed which is currently being conducted by consultants appointed by the Lanarkshire Partnership with a view to identifying the full range of services currently delivered to unemployed people across Lanarkshire. The Council agrees that it would be inappropriate to discontinue funding this project for the forthcoming financial year, however it is not possible, given the current financial climate, to grant the £40,000 which was requested by the project. It is proposed to award Launchpad £30,000 for the 1999/2000 period.
- 3.2 This funding would consist of a contribution of £10,000 from each the Departments of Education, Planning & Development and Social Work.
- 3.3 All external bodies currently funded by the Planning & Development Department's Economic Development Unit have a service level agreement in place with the quarterly monitoring reports made to Committee. It is proposed that the funding of Launchpad should follow this model. It is proposed that the Council offer Launchpad £30,000 for project funding for the 1999/2000 period subject to the following conditions being met :-
1. That a service level agreement is put in place.
 2. Quarterly performance reports, including financial monitoring reports, are to be submitted to the Economic Development Committee prior to quarterly payments being made.
 3. Any future funding is subject to the outcome of the review for services to the unemployed currently being conducted by the Lanarkshire Partnership.
 4. The project should be able to demonstrate the commitment of the private sector and/or European funding being in place in the longer term.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the Economic Development Unit would appoint a Senior Economic Development Officer to supervise this project with the responsibility of bringing quarterly reports to committee. During the forthcoming financial year the Planning & Development Department through the North Lanarkshire Training Resource Unit will seek to establish a range of training and employment initiatives in the Chryston area delivering mainstream economic development services for this community. This may provide an alternative source of delivery to Launchpad should the long term financial liability of the Launchpad project be uncertain.

4 Recommendation

Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and

- (i) approve an allocation of £10,000 from Economic Development budgets to support Launchpad..
- (ii) remit this report to Social Work and Education Committees for consideration.
- (iii) remit this report to Policy and Resource Committee for information.



 Stanley C Cook
Director of Planning & Environment

For further information contact Maureen McConachie, Economic Development Manager, telephone 01236 6266.