

EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2000

AGENDA ITEM No. 5

ACCESS PROJECT - FUNDING

21. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 September 2000 by the Director of Housing and Property Services in respect of (1) the progress of the ACCESS Project, which provides support to young people within the Council's supported accommodation units; (2) the extension of New Futures Funding until 2002, and (3) a bid for European Social Funds (ESF) for the proposed expansion of the Project (a) indicating that a similar project entitled Youth Start had been operating in the South Lanarkshire Council area on a larger scale, and to further develop the North Lanarkshire project and secure additional funding for both projects, a joint bid for funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) had been submitted by Lanarkshire Careers Service; (b) intimating that the ESF bid required an element of match funding of £275,000, which partner agencies had already provisionally agreed to provide; (c) detailing that approximately £65,000 per year was currently being sought from the Council and a similar amount had been pledged by South Lanarkshire Council, and (d) proposing that (A) a contribution from this Committee of up to £20,000 per year from 2001 be considered; (B) consideration of the remaining sum for this Council be given by the Community Services and Social Work Committees and by the Social Inclusion Partnership areas in North Lanarkshire; (C) if successful, the Project would run from January 2001 to the end of 2003, and (D) the expenditure could be incorporated within the overall HRA base estimates for 2001/2002.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report and the successful work of the ACCESS Project be noted;
- (2) that the success of the bid for the extension of funding until 2002 from the New Futures Fund be noted;
- (3) that contracts for the existing project staff be extended until April 2002;
- (4) that the submission of an application to the European Social Fund be noted, and if successful, a contribution of up to £20,000 per year for three years from 2001 funded from the HRA base estimates for 2001/2002 be approved;
- (5) that a further report be submitted to a future Committee on the progress of the bid and the funding arrangements, and
- (6) that the report be remitted to the Community Services, Social Inclusion and Social Work Committees for their information and to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration of the staffing element.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: HOUSING & PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: ACCESS Project - Funding	
From: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES		
Date: 27 September 2000	Ref: TMcK/PH	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of the ACCESS Project, including the extension of New Futures Funding until 2002, and the proposed expansion of the project which is the subject of a bid for European Structural Funds (ESF). A contribution of up to £20,000 towards the match-funding requirement for the ESF bid is also sought.

2. Background

- 2.1 The ACCESS Project is funded by Scottish Enterprise through the New Futures Fund and provides support to young people within the Council's supported accommodation units to help them access and sustain employment, training and further education opportunities. The Project was granted funding of £77,000 for 2 years from April 1999 and employs 2 full time members of staff along with clerical support and sessional workers. It is managed jointly by Housing & Property Services; Social Work and Community Services Departments along with Lanarkshire Careers Service.
- 2.2 The project provides individual support to the young people aimed at:
- Enhancing basic skills – literacy, numeracy
 - Increasing self confidence and self esteem
 - Providing basic IT training
 - Promoting job and training opportunities
 - Providing practical assistance to help access opportunities e.g. equipment, transport expenses, clothing
- 2.3 The project was working with 24 young people at 31 March 2000, and recorded a number of successful outcomes, including 8 young people accessing full time training and 6 going into full time employment. Many of the other young people have gained personally from their involvement in the project, including improved confidence, basic skills etc.

3. Future Funding

- 3.1 The Project was invited by Scottish Enterprise to submit an application for an extension to its funding to 2002, and confirmation has recently been received that this bid has been successful.
- 3.2 A similar project, called YouthStart, has been operating in South Lanarkshire for a number of years but on a larger scale. In order to further develop the project in North Lanarkshire and secure additional funding for both projects a bid for funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) has been submitted, led by Lanarkshire Careers Service. If successful the Project would be able to provide assistance to a wider client group, for example young people leaving care, and provide additional training and support to young people who are homeless.

3.3 The ESF Bid requires an element of match funding and partner agencies have already provisionally agreed to provide £275,000. Approximately £65,000 per year is being sought from North Lanarkshire Council, a similar amount has been pledged by South Lanarkshire Council, and funding is also being sought from the Social Inclusion Partnership areas in North Lanarkshire (SIPs). The Social Work Department and Community Services Department have indicated that they would be prepared to contribute and the Chief Executive is considering a contribution from the Social Inclusion Fund.

3.3 As the majority of the young people are currently accommodated by the Housing & Property Services Department it is appropriate that a contribution of up to £20,000 per year from 2001 should be considered. If successful the project would run from January 2001 to end of 2003. It is proposed that this expenditure could be incorporated within the overall HRA base estimates for 2001/02.

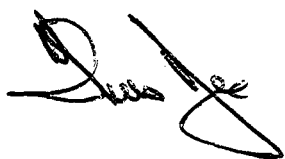
4. Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee

- a) Note the contents of this report and the successful work of the ACCESS Project.
- b) Note the additional funding secured from the New Futures Fund and agree to extend the Project for a further year to, including offering an extension to the contracts of the existing project staff to April 2002.
- c) Note the submission of an application to the European Social Fund and, if successful, agree to provide a contribution of up to £20,000 per year for 3 years from 2001 to be funded from HRA revenue.
- d) Note that a further report will be submitted to Committee on the progress of the bid and the funding arrangements.
- e) Remit this report to the Social Inclusion Committee and Social Work Committee for their information.

5. Background Information

5.1 Background Information is available from the Housing & Property Services Department.



Thomas McKenzie
Director of Housing & Property Services