

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: EUROPEAN FUNDING APPLICATIONS	
From: JIM DICKIE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 9 May 2002	Ref: JD/GMCI	

## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To seek approval for resources to match fund two applications for European grants, which are being submitted in respect of Supported Employment initiatives.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In August 2001, Committee considered and approved a report on a visit by officers of the Social Work Department to the Basque Country. The report indicated consideration was being given to the submission of a Transitional Partnership bid through the Equal Programme.
- 2.2 In the period following this report, initial work has been undertaken to develop the application to the Equal Programme. In addition a delegation from the Basque Country visited North Lanarkshire in February this year and concluded the arrangements for the Transitional Partnership bid.
- 2.3 The application which is being made to the Equal Programme will enable the Council to research and develop new practices in the field of supported employment. These developments are based on models which are successfully applied in the Basque Country. The total cost of the Equal application is £60,000. If approved, the Council will receive 40% of the total funding which is £24,000. The remaining £36,000, requires to be met by the Social Work Department. It is estimated that £12,000 of the Social Work contribution can be met "in kind" through the use of staff time.
- 2.4 The second of the two applications concerns the existing Partnership Employment Project (PEP). This is currently funded through the Social Inclusion Partnership. However, the SIP have indicated their funding contribution will cease in March 2003.
- 2.5 In an effort to attract alternative funding, an application will be made to the European Social Fund (ESF) under Objective 3. If successful, the application will receive 45% of the overall costs, which will equate to £47,631. The balance of the funds would be met by a match of £46,217 from Social Work, and a contribution of £12,000 from Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire.

### 3 PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Supported Employment is a key policy of the Council. It provides the opportunity for people with disabilities to access real jobs paying real wages. A successful application to the Equal Programme will enhance the opportunities of developing new and innovative approaches to supported employment.
- 3.2 The loss of funding via the Social Inclusion Partnership for the Partnership Employment Project will deal a serious blow to the progress of supported employment in North Lanarkshire. The submission of an application for alternative funding to the ESF, if successful, will enable the good work of PEP to continue.

### 4 FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS


- 4.1 Approval is sought for match funding of:-

Equal Programme	£24,000
ESF Objective 3	<u>£46,217</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£70,217</b>

Provision exists within the Social Work estimates to meet this expenditure. It should be noted, that the expenditure will only be necessary if the applications for European funding are successful.

### 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Committee is requested to approve:-
- i) The allocation of £24,000 for the Equal Programme application.
  - ii) The allocation of £46,217 in respect of the PEP submission for ESF.
  - iii) To request the Director of Social Work to bring forward in due course a further report advising of the outcome of the respective applications.
  - iv) To otherwise not the report.

  
**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**17 April 2002**

For further information on this report please contact George McNally, Manager Social Work Strategy (TEL: 01698 332555)