

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 September 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources) Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Economic Development Officer – Extension to Temporary Contract
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1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ obtain approval to extend the temporary contract of the current post holder in respect of the externally funded Economic Development Officer post, Regeneration Services.

2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the temporary contract of the current post holder Economic Development Officer (0.8 FTE) be extended from 14 September 2010 to the end of March 2012.

3 Background

3.1 The Council's Funding and Development Team, established within Regeneration Services, fulfils a Corporate role in supporting all Resources in the Council, and its key Community Planning Partners, in attracting external funds for the delivery of enhanced services.

3.2 The team has developed a strong reputation for innovative, partnership working which has resulted in a successful track record in the attraction of funds. As a result of a successful partnership approach to specific lottery and European funds, the Council was approached by NHS Lanarkshire to supplement its team by providing a focus on funding related to health issues.

3.3 At its meeting in February 2008, the Committee approved the proposal to establish a post funded by the NHS Lanarkshire South Community Health Partnership. The functions of the post were:

- to adopt the approach taken by the Council's Funding and Development team to attracting funds for NHS Lanarkshire
- to strengthen existing support provided by the team to South Lanarkshire's existing Health Partnerships
- to work as part of the Funding and Development Team on the funding of related fields such as care and healthy lifestyles.

- 3.4 It was acknowledged that the creation of this post would represent a completely new approach to a joined up service between different public sector bodies in Scotland. The proposal would also demonstrate the practical benefits of the close working relationship between Community Planning Partners in South Lanarkshire.

4 Proposal

- 4.1 Following approval in February 2008, recruitment took place with an appointment commencing in September 2008. Funding for a 2 year period was provided by NHS Lanarkshire with a contribution of £110,000 being made available. Since then the approach adopted has proved extremely fruitful with a series of high profile successful awards generated for South Lanarkshire based community health organisations. The scope of the initiative initially agreed a target of £1million generated over the two year period. This was considered an ambitious target given the developing financial recession at the time. Despite this the post holder has secured external funding by the end of March 2010 of £1.713million managing a portfolio of £1.250million.
- 4.2 This hosting arrangement has benefited both the post-holder and the project in terms of ensuring that appropriate support, guidance, and resources are able to be accessed. For the Council it has ensured synergy with existing funding and development activity in relation to health and the community planning agenda. It allows access to funding supporting services by the voluntary sector that promote good health and wellbeing and which directly impact on the targets set within the South Lanarkshire Single Outcome Agreement. The work of the post holder through this project is therefore making a direct contribution to the joint priorities and objectives of the Council and its Community Planning Partners.
- 4.3 In increasingly difficult times, continued investment by NHS in this unique area of work has had a highly successful impact. As a result, NHS Lanarkshire is keen to sustain the services of the post holder. The benefits of hosting the post have been clear including better co-ordination in support for the voluntary sector and of external funding applications on its behalf. There are no costs to the Council other than ongoing supervision as part of the Funding and Development Team.
- 4.4 In addition to funding remaining within the current budget which will support the post until March 2011, NHS Lanarkshire has given its written commitment to fund this post for 2011/2012. In view of the success of the project to date and this further financial commitment it is therefore proposed to extend the existing post holder's contract until March 2012.

5 Employee Implications

- 5.1 It is proposed to extend the current post holder's temporary contract which expires on 14 September 2010 until the end of March 2012.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications for the Council, as sufficient funding will be made available by NHS South Lanarkshire Community Health Partnership to meet salary and associated costs until end of March 2012.

7 Other Implications

- 7.1 There are no implications for sustainability or risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

8 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1 This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2 This report follows a comprehensive joint review and consultation on progress with the project principally with NHS Lanarkshire as the key stakeholder and funding partner agency concerned.

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Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

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Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

2 August 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth improving skills and employability
- Partnership working, community leadership and engagement
- Efficient and effective use of resources

Previous References

- Enterprise Resources Committee, 20 February 2008

List of Background Papers

- None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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