

# Report

Report to:	<b>Community and Enterprise Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>28 September 2021</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b> <b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Economic Development Officer (External Funding) – Establishment of Additional Post</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- ◆ seek approval for 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Economic Development Officer to be added to the Planning and Economic Development Services establishment on a fixed term basis for 23 months

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the addition of 1 FTE Economic Development Officer on Grade 3, Level 2-8 (£32,994.19 to £42,410.68) to the Planning and Economic Development establishment for a fixed term of 23 months, as detailed in section 5, be approved.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Council's Funding and Development team within Planning and Economic Development Services, fulfil a corporate role in supporting all Resources in the Council and its Community Planning Partners, in attracting external funds for the delivery of projects and initiatives.
- 3.2. The UK Government opened two new multi-year funds in 2021: The UK Levelling Up Fund (UK LUF) and the UK Community Ownership Fund. It also announced the Heads of Terms for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 3.3. The UK Government has provided each Scottish Local Authority £125,000 to help support the development of UK LUF applications and the Council has discretion on the use of this fund. It is considered that given the scale of the UK LUF being some £4 billion between 2021 to 2024, and the potential to attract significant funds to South Lanarkshire (up to £60 million), that the most appropriate use of the £125,000 is to put in place officer capacity. Thus ensuring that the full potential of the fund can be attracted to South Lanarkshire by developing projects supported by robust business cases. In this context there are currently insufficient officer capacity to dedicate to the UK LUF to ensure that its full potential is realised.

#### 4. Proposal

- 4.1. Following on from the above, it is proposed that using the funds to add an additional Economic Development Officer post that this will progress and support all technical aspects of preparing and submitting UK LUF bids. The Council is preparing up to four bids, each of which may be up to £20 million, these require dedicated resources to develop the full business case, technical design and economic modelling. The post would be responsible for coordinating and preparing bids and ensuring the coordination of successful project applications.

#### 5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. It is proposed that the following is added to the establishment of Planning and Economic Development Services for a 23 month fixed term period.

Post title	Number of posts	Grade / SCP	Hourly Rate	Annual salary (excluding on-costs)	Gross salary (including on-costs 30.3%)
Economic Development Officer	1	Grade 3 Level 2-8	£18.08 – £23.24	£32,994.19 - £42,410.68	£42,991.43 - £55,261.11
Total (23 months)	1				£82,400.24 - £105,917.13

#### 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The budget available through the funding received of £125,000 is sufficient to cover all costs from the post. The costs projected below are provided at the highest grade. The remaining funds would be used to undertake specialist reports or studies to support the bid applications.

Economic Development Officer	Salary	On costs at 30.3%	Total 23 month costs
2021/2022	£10,603	£3,212	£13,815
2022/2023	£42,411	£12,850	£55,261
2023/2024	£28,273	£8,568	£36,841
<b>Total</b>			<b>£105,917</b>

#### 7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The risk associated with this matter, is if the Council is not adequately resourcing the development of projects and bids to the UK LUF, funding is not secured, and the investment sought by the Council is not achieved.

#### 8. Climate Change, sustainability and environmental implications

- 8.1. The UK LUF seeks to deliver low carbon and net zero projects as a priority. By providing a dedicated post the most robust and sustainable projects will be developed and submitted.

#### 9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. 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.

9.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

**Michael McGlynn**  
**Executive Director, Community and Enterprise**

**Paul Manning**  
**Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Resources**

9 September 2021

**Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

**Previous References**

- ◆ None

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

**Contact for Further Information**

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

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