

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 23 OCTOBER 2001

CONDUIT ILM TRAINING PROJECT

Report by Director of Development Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee on the process of the Conduit Project and approve the funding contribution for the financial year 2002/03.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Conduit – Community Organisation for Network Development and Use of Information Technology was developed from a pilot training project the Dalmellington IT Project which was established in 1996.
- 2.2 The Conduit Project has three training offices, Dalmellington, Kilmarnock and New Cumnock, which between them can accommodate up to 30 trainees at a time.
- 2.3 The project is designed as an intermediate labour market project (ILM) which provides up to 52 weeks training on an integrated package of theoretical and practical training supplemented by work experience in employers premises. Trainers cover a broad base of admin and ICT skills leading to an SVQ Level II and also towards the new European Computer Driving Licence. The 32-hour full time programme includes, vocational skills training, work experience, advice, guidance, personal development, monitoring and aftercare. The programme is designed to provide unemployed people with skills to enable them to compete successfully in the labour market. Each trainee is temporarily employed by East Ayrshire Council and receives a wage of £127 per week.
- 2.4 The Conduit Project has trained 98 long term unemployed people, 30 currently in place, 68% have entered employment, 76% have gained a qualification and 12% have entered further education or training.
- 2.5 The Project also carries out “work” for community and voluntary groups, designing posters, wallets, basic web page design and assists in supporting the network of learning centres being established by Ayrshire Electronic Community.
- 2.6 The Project staff are employed by Ayr College and seconded to the project and consist of:
- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| □ Programme Manager | 1 |
| □ Tutor/Supervisors | 3 |
| □ Admin/Clerical support | 1 |

3. PROJECT FUNDING

3.1 The project is funded through a range of partners totalling £360,000 per year:

	£
East Ayrshire Council	30,000
Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire	70,000
East Ayrshire Coalfield Social Inclusion Partnership	45,000
Ayr College	10,000
East Ayrshire Employment Initiative	5,000
New Deal + Training for Work (Govt. Employment Programmes)	40,000
Scottish power	10,000
European Community, Objective 2 European Social Fund	150,000
	<u>£360,000</u>

4. VALUE FOR MONEY

4.1 In terms of East Ayrshire Council's guidelines regarding Value for Money, the CONDUIT programme provides excellent value for money. The contribution of £30,000 from East Ayrshire Council levers in a further £330,000 from other services.

4.2 Officers of the Economic Development Division are members of the steering group and receive regular monitoring reports on all aspects of the project.

5 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

5.1 The Kilmarnock centre currently located in the Royal Bank of Scotland Premises in Low Glencairn Street, Kilmarnock has received notice to quit. Discussions to relocate to Stagecoach premises in Nursery Avenue, Kilmarnock are at an advanced stage.

5.2 Programme content has recently been developed to allow higher level entry, i.e. unemployed people who already have SVQ Level II or equivalent can join the programme and work towards SVQ Level III. This is an important development as it allows the project to support the development of the Business Technology Training Centre in Dalmellington, the introduction of the Government sponsored Job Rotation Programme and the development of Ayrshire Electronic Community as a social enterprise business.

6 STRATEGIC FIT

6.1 The project fits with the Government's Welfare to Work Programme through its involvement with The New Deal and Training for Work Initiatives. It fits with the strategic aims of the European Social Funds Objective 2 and Objective 3 Programmes by raising employability and encouraging a culture of Life Long Learning. It fits with the Scottish Executives, Digital Scotland and Enterprise and Life Long Working strategies and in addition fits with the aims

of East Ayrshire Council's Social Inclusion Strategy, Council Plan and ITC Strategy.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The continuation of the £30,000 per annum contribution from Development Services to the projects financial package.

8. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Nil

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) The Committee approved the continuation of £30,000 funding support
- (ii) The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and to approve the assessment of Best Value contained in paragraph 4.

STEPHEN CHORLEY
Director of Development Services

8/10/01
DD/RP/CF

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development ext 6142.

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AGENDA