

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COUNCIL MEETING - 17 DECEMBER 2002

SLIMS CHANGE OF LEGAL STATUS

Report by Director Of Development Services

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform the Committee of the change in legal status of Strathclyde Labour Intelligence and Monitoring Service (SLIMS) and the consequent changes to the relationship between SLIMS and the Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** SLIMS was formed in 1996 as a partnership of Local Enterprise Companies, local authorities, educational institutions and local economic development organisations in the West of Scotland, with part funding from the European Social Fund via the Strathclyde European Partnership. The partnership owes its establishment to a common commitment to the economic and social development of the West of Scotland. Since 1996 SLIMS has provided labour market information and intelligence to partner and other organisations, to assist them in European and other funding applications, and in the formulation of policy and strategy. East Ayrshire Council has been a member of SLIMS since its inception.

3. PROPOSED CHANGE

- 3.1** It has become clear that the status of SLIMS as a preferred contractor for the Strathclyde European Partnership did not fit with current European directives on the public procurement of services. A steering group made up of the partner organisations examined several alternatives to the existing partnership, in order that the organisation could bid for the European work on a competitive basis.
- 3.2** The preferred model was to register SLIMS as a Company Limited by Guarantee. All participating Councils will be invited to become members of the company.
- 3.3** Directors of the company will be drawn from the former partner organisations on the basis of groupings of member organisations. Payment for continuation of the services provided by the new company has been set initially at the same level as the former membership subscriptions.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association of the new company have been scrutinised and agreed by the Council's Legal Division.
- 4.2 Indemnity insurance for representative directors is currently being arranged by SLIMS, in accordance with Council policy.

5. POLICY, PERSONNEL, AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Members are asked to support the change in status of the Strathclyde Labour Intelligence and Monitoring Service (SLIMS) and agree that the Council should become a member organisation.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

JF
10 December 2002

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. **Memorandum and Articles of Association of SLIMS**

For further information on this report please contact Robert Paton Tel: (57) 6298

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