

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Council : 25 April 2007

Subject : Release of Retrospective European Regional Development Funding to Comm-it

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for providing retrospective European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) to Comm-it, a not for profit social economy organisation that provides IT support and services to other social economy organisations in the West Dunbartonshire area.

2. Background

2.1 The attached report (Appendix 1) was presented to the Corporate Services Committee on 28 March 2007. The Committee referred the matter to Council for consideration and asked that further information in relation to the background of the organisation and to the intended purpose of the grant be presented along with the original report.

3. Main Issues

3.1 As stated in para 1.1, Comm-it is a not for profit organisation that provides IT support and services to other social economy organisations in West Dunbartonshire.

3.2 The project arose from the Connecting Communities project set up by the then WDC Social Inclusion Partnership to support many small social economy organisations who do not have the expertise required to operate and maintain modern IT based office systems. Comm-it was constituted as a limited company in March 2005.

3.3 The project does not undertake any contracts or work for the business sector or for private or home clients. At present most of their clients are projects funded by the CPP who are provided with free IT support and on the spot training and advice. To receive support from Comm-it, the organisation or community group objectives must fit with the Local Outcome Agreement.

3.4 The project is not seen to be a competitor by local private service providers. Since Comm-it buys many of its supplies from these providers, the project is viewed as having a positive impact on their business.

3.5 The project is based in Braidfield School and currently employs 3 members of staff.

3.6 The project has, to date, received the following funding:-

2003/04	£51,359	SIP
2004/05	£53,225	SIP
2005/06	£96,079	CRF
2006/07	£75,000	CRF

3.7 The purpose of this retrospective grant is to contribute towards the training and development of existing staff and to provide funding for the development of a trainee scheme. It is the project's intention to create a trainee scheme to support the local voluntary learning centres.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel implications.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The financial implications are as stated in the original report.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 No additional risk analysis was required in relation to this report.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The Council must, therefore, take a view on the advice provided to date and make a judgement on the potential risk that they are willing to incur in releasing funding to Comm-it.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Council is asked to approve the release of the retrospective ERDF funding to Comm-it.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 17 April 2007

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Appendix: Report to Corporate Services Committee on 28 March 2007 , " Release of Retrospective European Regional Development Funding to Comm-it".

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All