

**SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS THROUGH GRANTS AND
SECONDMENTS**

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report on the progress made by community partners in delivering the Economic Development Plan and Lifelong Learning Development Plan for 1999/00.
- 1.2 To present the proposed grants and secondments for 2000/01.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report summarises the progress made by organisations supported by the Council for 1999/00 as part of the Economic Development Plan for the year.
- 2.2 Details of applications for support by organisations are circulating separately. Agreement is sought for further funding for them for the coming year. The paper also recommends that in some cases, funding is subject to discussion about specific targets once research is completed.
- 2.3 The continued secondment of four staff to the Milton Keynes Women and Work Group is also proposed.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee is recommended to:
 - (a) note the attached report and appendices with details of organisations' successes and aspirations for activity in the future;

- (b) agree the award of funding to organisations as detailed in **Annex A** (including consideration of a loan to IMK); and
- (c) agree the continued secondment of staff to the Milton Keynes Women and Work Group.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 The Council supports an annual programme of grant aid to deliver services in support of the Economic Development Plan and the Lifelong Learning Development Plan.
- 4.2 All organisations awarded grants in 1999/00 were monitored against their applications. Key achievements, during 1999/00, of each organisation applying for further funding are contained within the application forms for the continuation funding (circulated separately). Notable successes include:
- (a) Manpower Forum supported 60 young people with Special Training Needs through foundation training and in to employment;
 - (b) SNAP supported 68 people with learning difficulties and other special needs through a work preparation and life skills unit;
 - (c) SNAP has embarked on an innovative self assessment task based on a quality framework agreed mutually by SNAP and the two Directorates within the Council that currently fund them (Neighbourhood Services and Learning and Development);
 - (d) MK and North Bucks Disability Employment Network (DEN) recruited eleven new companies as members of the Network;
 - (e) Six events were organised by MKandNB DEN for companies to address the Disability Discrimination Act Part III;
 - (f) DEN has recruited and trained thirty mentors to provide employment support and guidance to people with disabilities;
 - (g) Rathbone CI assisted nineteen people, deemed 'disadvantaged in gaining employment', to find paid work and ten others to find voluntary work;
 - (h) Business Link, Milton Keynes and North Bucks provided 1,419 counselling sessions to small businesses and 564 sessions through the Women's Enterprise Centre;
 - (i) the 84 managed premises sustained 90%+ occupation throughout the year;
 - (j) the MK Women and Work Group had contact with 4,246 clients using their range of services (including the Asian Women's Project);
 - (k) the Jobsearch Advisor provided advice and guidance to 668 women; and

- (l) the Asian Women's Project once again received national recognition for its work by winning three awards through the British Diversity Awards scheme.

4.3 All the organisations submitting applications have requested funding to at least the same level as last year, and some have asked for significantly more. In addition there have been three new bids (one from IMK, one from MKIPA and one from the Stables) **Annexes B, C and D** provide the details.

4.4 The Council has also supported the work of the Milton Keynes Women and Work Group through the secondment of staff. This includes the Jobsearch Adviser and staff of the Asian Women's Project, which was successful in attracting funding from DfEE's Adult and Community Learning Fund for 2 years from April 1999 to March 2001. Funding from the Home Office has now ceased. The Asian Women's Project staffing to be seconded for 1999/00 therefore consists of four staff (one full-time and three part-time).

5. **Issues and Choices**

Grant Aid Awards

5.1 A summary of recommended funding from agreed budgets is attached as **Annex A**. Application forms are circulating separately, with this agenda.

5.2 Officers have undertaken several pieces of work this year to identify needs in the community to help inform the Committee's decision about how to target resources in the future. Attached as **Annex B** is an outline of research related to lifelong learning and its links to the grant applications. Attached, as **Annex C** is an outline of research and information related to business support and employment support and their applications for funding.

Secondment of Staff to the Milton Keynes Women and Work Group

5.3 Milton Keynes Council has supported the Milton Keynes Women and Work Group for several years through the secondment of staff. This proves most satisfactory to both parties and, therefore, no change is recommended.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

None.

6.2 Equalities

All the projects supported through these grants address some form of inequality within the labour market.

6.3 Financial

The report seeks to gain approval for funding within the approved budget, which is the same as last year updated for inflation.

6.4 Legal

None.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

There are no accommodation implications. The seconded staff are located within the bases of community partner organisations but with allocated space within Council Offices maintained on a part-time basis.

It is estimated that the Committee's grants support the jobs of about fourteen workers in these specific projects.

7. **Conclusions**

- 7.1 The allocation of continuation funding for 2000/01 will ensure support for a diverse range of community partner organisations that contribute to achievement of Aims set out in the Council's Economic Development Plan and Lifelong Learning Development Plan. The contribution of seconded staff is essential for the services indicated to continue.

Background Papers: None