

Extract from minutes of –

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

14th MAY, 2008

“Economic Development Update

Co-financing for European Social Fund Applications

The Head of Economic Initiatives reminded the Committee that the European Social Fund provided funding for training measures to assist people into employment and to enhance their career prospects. The closing date for applications under this Programme had been November, 2007 and successful projects had been notified in December. She advised the Committee that the Council had been successful in attracting funding for a project to support access to employment in the independent retail and hospitality sectors. It had emerged subsequently that eight projects which had applied for funding had indicated that the Council would be co-financing their schemes. However, at the time of submission, only two projects had advised the Council of this. At its meeting on 21st February, the Committee had agreed to co-fund these two projects, together with a further initiative which had been submitted by Women in Business.

The Head of Economic Initiatives advised the Committee that the Council had been requested recently to consider the undernoted additional three projects for co-financing over the next three year period:

- (i) ‘Advancement of Women Initiative’, submitted by the Training for Women Network which had requested co-financing of £54,068 per year;
- (ii) ‘Women Working for Themselves’, submitted by the East Belfast Enterprise which had requested co-financing of £26,237 per year;
- (iii) ‘Skills for Enterprise’, submitted by East Belfast Enterprise which had requested co-financing of £30, 948 per year;

She advised the Members that the other two projects which had named the Council as potential match funders had not yet formally approached the Council.

She informed the Committee that no budget had been set aside for these three new schemes when the Economic Development Unit’s Business Plan had been prepared. In addition, these projects could not be co-financed through any other European funding stream. Therefore, the Department was not in a position to provide financial assistance to these projects.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed not to support the three requests which had been received for co-financing under the European Social Fund’s, ‘Helping People Into Employment’ scheme.”

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