

THE EXECUTIVE

11 NOVEMBER 2003

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND HEALTH

LAUNCH OF THE LOCAL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP	FOR DECISION
<p><i>The Executive must approve discretionary meetings called by staff where the expected expenditure is likely to exceed £1000.</i></p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>Development of a Local Business Partnership is part of the implementation plan for the Health and Consumer Services Balanced Scorecard. The Partnership framework is now set up and Health and Consumer Services plan to hold a launch event at the Centre for Manufacturing and Engineering Excellence ('CEME'). The total cost of the event is estimated at £5,000. The partnership is a vital development in engaging the business community along with external agencies to work closer with the Council.</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>The Executive is asked to agree to the proposed expenditure that will be met from a grant awarded to the Council by the Small Business Service to develop the partnership.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p> <p>The Launch of the partnership can not go ahead without executive approval on the expenditure.</p>	
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1. Background

- 1.1. Local Business Partnerships involve local authorities and businesses in their area. They provide a framework to enable the business community and local authorities to work together to streamline regulation processes. The aim is to make it easier for people in business to understand and comply with regulations which, in turn, makes the job of regulators inside and outside the Council easier. For local businesses the Partnership will reduce cost and generate greater confidence that the business is getting it right. All key local authority applied regulation is covered.
- 1.2. The Government's Small Business Service has very recently awarded a grant of £15,000 to the Council to launch and develop a Local Business Partnership. The Council's bid for this money made it clear that the grant would partly be used to fund a launch promotion event. The grant must be used by 31 March 2004.

- 1.3. It is proposed that the launch will form part of an “Employers Day” event being held at CEME on 19 November which a wide range of local businesses are expected to attend. External regulatory partners including the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise will also be attending.
- 1.4. Precise costings are not yet available but the overall cost will be in the region of £5,000. This will be met entirely from the grant.
- 1.5. In the absence of suitable facilities during the Town Hall and Civic Centre refurbishments, Officers propose to use the Centre for Manufacturing and Engineering Excellence.