



PORTFOLIO AREA: ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Date of Meeting: 11TH MARCH 2002

Private*

* Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan: No

Outside Policy Framework

Title: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE CUMBRIA
INWARD INVESTMENT AGENCY

Report of: Head of Economic Development

Report reference: EDU.03/02

Summary

A request has been received from the Cumbria Inward Investment Agency for additional funding for consultancy work in connection with the bid to secure the National Rail Academy for Carlisle

Recommendations:

That £5,000 is agreed to be funded from Economic Development base budgets

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

**REQUEST FOR ADDITION FUNDING FROM THE
CUMBRIA INWARD INVESTMENT AGENCY**

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 The proposal to promote the idea of a National Rail Academy [NRA] has been around for about a year, with the CIIA leading the Cumbrian case to site the facility in Carlisle. With the publication of the Strategic Rail Authority's [SRA] strategic plan in January, where the concept of the NRA was mentioned, the need to press and develop the case with the SRA and with the Rail and Educational sectors generally has become more pressing.
- 1.2 Part of the work undertaken by the CIIA and its consultants has been the development of the concept of the NRA, including what it would do, how it would operate and be funded. This has been essential to promote a credible Carlisle case to the SRA, and to date this approach has been successful and is being taken seriously. However more remains to be done in a fairly short time-scale. Funding for the additional work is being met largely from the Regional Development Agency, with the City and County Councils being asked for £5,000 each.

2.0 CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Consultation to Date.
A meeting of partners including Officers and Members of the City and County Councils and representatives of the HE and FE Education sectors took place in February
- 2.2 Consultation proposed.
Further meetings will be called by CIIA

3.0 STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

- 3.1 There are no staffing implications.
Following a budget review, £5,000 can be found from Economic Development base budgets

4. **CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS**

Scope for a virement can be identified totalling £5,000 from within the business and employment support expenses in this financial year.

5. **LEGAL COMMENTS**

The Council has the power to make the grant if it so wishes.

6. **CORPORATE COMMENTS**

None

7. **RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT**

The consultants work is managed by CIIA. The risk is that the work may be abortive and the NRA may be sited elsewhere

8. **EQUALITY ISSUES**

None

9. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

To be dealt with at the Planning stage if the project develops

10. **CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

None

11. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Council contributes £5,000 towards the cost of the additional research and project development as requested by CIIA

12. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To support and develop a strategic inward investment opportunity