

THE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AGENCY FOR SOUTH EAST ESSEX

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider Grant Aid for the Business Enterprise Agency for the financial year 2001/02.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.2 When grant support was considered for 2001/02 the financial support for the Business Enterprise Agency was deferred pending a further report on alternative ways of funding the agency.
- 2.3 In formulating a new approach to funding the Enterprise Agency, it was considered appropriate to have a major input from the Economic Development Officer in order to ensure the service was delivered in accordance with Council objectives. It is not possible at this time to gain that input and the Agency needs to know whether or not grant funding will be available this year.
- 2.4 In view of the current situation Members may wish to consider a grant for 2001/02 and to consider the issue again for 2002/03.
- 2.5 For 2000/01 Members authorised a grant of £1,500. Budget provision was agreed for a similar level of grant for 2001/02.
- 2.6 The unaudited accounts for the year to 31 December 2000 showed that the Agency recorded a loss of around £2000 for the year. In comparison the accounts to 1999 recorded a profit of £10,300. The main reasons were the loss of a contract with Southend on Sea Borough Council to run the Seed bed Centre at Shoebury and a reduction of income through the Business Development Advisory Service.
- 2.7 It should be noted that Roger Crofts is currently the Chairman of the Business Enterprise Agency.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There is provision within the current estimates for £1,500.

4 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Centre is located in Southend on Sea.

5 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That Members are requested to recommend a grant of £1,500 for the financial year 2001/02 and that the question of alternative basis of support be considered for 2002/03.

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Background Papers:

None

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