

21. SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development seeking approval on the proposal to join the Board of the Supplier Development Programme (SDP), which was a partnership of local authorities across Scotland to build awareness and provide information, education and training on public procurement and contract opportunities to local SMEs.

The Head of Planning and Economic Development explained that the SDP was a partnership of 16 local authorities, the third sector and the Scottish Government and that its main priority was to build awareness of public procurement and contract opportunities. Delivery was through a website and a programme of events

A number of businesses had already come forward asking the council to join the scheme so they could take advantage of the programme and that at the moment the programme was providing intensive training and support to those companies looking to bid for contracts such as the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The benefits to both the council and businesses were summarised in the report and it concluded that by joining the SDP the council was further supporting growth of the local business community to develop and build their capacity to ensure that they had a competitive chance in winning new business, which would ensure a strong indigenous business community within West Lothian.

It was recommended that the Council approve that West Lothian Council became a members of the Supplier Development Programme.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.