

EX44. Towards a Community Development Finance Institution

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting proposals to establish a Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) in partnership with Fife and West Lothian Councils.

A CDFI is a service that offers borrowing and money advice to low income, high risk groups who would otherwise use, higher cost alternatives.

The report set out the work undertaken to date to explore the option of establishing a CDFI to serve the Falkirk, Fife and West Lothian areas and set out the key findings from a feasibility study and business case which had been requested by a steering group comprising senior elected members from the three Councils.

The report set out in detail the costs for the project should it go ahead.

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) to authorise officers to seek to tender for a Community Development Finance Institution solution in conjunction with their counterparts in Fife and West Lothian;**
- (2) that officers will engage with key stakeholders e.g. banks, Scottish Government with regard to seeking any required loan capital; and**
- (3) to request a report on the outcome of these discussions and that the tender process is reported back to the Executive in late 2016 for a decision on proceeding to delivery.**