

D3

ECONOMIC.DEV1995M

Motherwell, 1 February 1996 at 4 pm.

A Meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Curran, Chair; Councillor Connelly, Vice-Chair; Councillors Coyle, Foley, Gray, Lucas, H. McGuigan, McKendrick, McKeown, Mathieson, G. Murray, Pentland, Robertson, Selfridge, Shaw and Stocks.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Central Services, Director of Planning and Development and Head of Economic Development and Property.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Beekman, Sullivan and Wallace.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 26 October 1995, there were submitted proposed revised Terms of Reference.

Decided: that the revised Terms of Reference be approved and remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 January 1996 by the Head of Business Development and Property regarding Strathclyde Regional Council's International Trade Development Programme and containing proposals for its continuation and management.

Decided:

- (1) that the International Trade Development Programme and its management arrangements, as outlined in the report by the Head of Business Developments and Property be approved, in principle, subject to confirmation that the necessary finance can be made available during 1996-97, and
- (2) that otherwise consideration be continued pending a further report by the Director of Planning and Development.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 1994 - ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT POWERS

3. There were submitted (1) letters dated 29 December 1995 and 12 January 1996 from the Scottish Office, Education and Industry Department regarding the powers given to local authorities in terms of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 to engage in activities outside their area for the purpose of promoting the economic development of their area, and (2) a report dated 9 January 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development containing his observations on the terms of the circulars.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the circulars and report be noted, and
- (2) that the Council welcome the Secretary of State's decision not to regulate to control local government economic development activity.

TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

4. There was submitted a report dated 18 January 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development proposing that (1) North Lanarkshire Council support the Town Centre Management Initiatives which had been established by Motherwell and Monklands District Councils; (2) officers be authorised to investigate options for the establishment of an independent body to manage the Town Centre Management Initiative and report back on the most appropriate option; (3) the two Town Centre Management appointments made by Motherwell and Monklands District Councils transfer to this Council until the establishment of an independent body, at which stage those employees be transferred to the new Company, and (4) a contribution of \$90,000 towards the Initiative for a two year period be agreed, in principle, subject to confirmation that the finance can be made available.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree to support in principle the proposals by the Director of Planning and Development, and
- (2) that the matter be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration in light of budgetary considerations.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE TRUSTS IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

5. There was submitted a report dated 18 January 1996 by the

Director of Planning and Development summarising the current position concerning the role and financing of the three Enterprise Trusts within the North Lanarkshire area.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Development be instructed to submit a further report concerning the future funding of Enterprise Trusts, and
- (3) that the Director of Planning and Development be instructed to consider the utilisation of Enterprise Trusts in the dissemination of information on the Council's Economic/Business Development Initiatives.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND BUDGETS

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 January 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development identifying the various forms of business development support currently available within the North Lanarkshire area.

Decided:

- (1) that continuation by this Council of the various Business Development projects as detailed in the Director of Planning and Development's report be approved, in principle, subject to confirmation that the necessary funding can be made available;
- (2) that approval, in principle, subject to confirmation that the necessary funding can be made available, be given to SBD to continue to operate the Employment Grant Scheme as normal from 1 January 1996, with payment liabilities falling to this Council with effect from 1 April 1996;
- (3) that the various budgets, as outlined in the Director of Planning and Development's report be approved, in principle, subject to confirmation that the proposed value of this Council's contribution which amounts to \$753,067 can be made available during 1996-97, and
- (4) that consideration of the Council's contribution be continued pending a further report by the Director of Planning and Development.

SCOTTISH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY

7. There was submitted a letter dated 5 December 1995 from the

General Manager and Secretary, Scottish Council Development and Industry offering to make a presentation on his Council's activities in the field of economic development.

Decided: that the Council agree to accept the offer of a presentation by the General Manager and Secretary, Scottish Council Development and Industry, such presentation to be held on a date to be arranged.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT - STAFF
STRUCTURE

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 January 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development regarding the proposed staff structure for his Department. The Director of Planning and Development advised that this structure had subsequently been approved by the Planning and Development Committee for its interest at its meeting on 24 January 1996.

Decided: that the Committee approve for its interest the terms of the report.

CONFERENCES ETC.

- (1) "TOURISM SIGNPOSTING"

9. There was submitted a letter dated 18 December 1995 from the Scottish Tourist Board inviting the Council to be represented at its Conference entitled "Tourist Signposting" to be held in Stirling on 30 January 1996.

Decided: that no attendance at this Conference be authorised.

- (2) "THE FUTURE OF WORK - JOB SHOCK 2000"

10. There was submitted an invitation from TCB for the Council to be represented at its Conference entitled "The Future of Work - Job Shock 2000" to be held in Dundee on 23 and 24 February 1996.

Decided: that no attendance at this Conference be authorised.

The Chair, being of the opinion that the following item of business was of an urgent nature, authorised its consideration to enable members to be advised of the action which he had taken and for appropriate authority to be given.

(3) "UNITARY AUTHORITIES AND THEIR LOCAL ECONOMIES"

11. There was submitted an invitation from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies for the Council to be represented at its Seminar entitled "Unitary Authorities and Their Local Economies" to be held in York on 19 January 1996. The Chair advised that, following consultation, he had authorised the Vice-Chair to represent the Council at this Seminar.

Decided: That the action taken be homologated.