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Motherwell, 13 June 1996 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Curran, Convener; Councillors Brooks, Coyle, Lucas, McKendrick, Macleod, G. Murray, Pentland, Robertson and Wallace.

CHAIR

Councillor Curran (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Central Services, Head of Economic Development and Property and Economic Development Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Connelly, McElroy, R. McKenna, McKeown, Shaw, Stocks and Sullivan.

URBAN PROGRAMME FUNDED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS: PROPOSED MAINLINING AND EXTENSION OF FUNDING
FOR PROJECTS TERMINATING 1996/97

1. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this

Committee held on 2 May 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the current position in relation to Urban Programme Funded Economic Development projects, and the proposed mainlining and extension of funding for projects terminating in the financial year 1996/97.

Decided:that the Committee

(1) for its interest

- (a)approve the revised Departmental budget of \$159,945 for the mainlining of terminating Urban Programme funded projects for 1996/97;
- (b)approve the allocation of \$25,000 from this budget to the Launchpad Project for 1996/97 subject to confirmation that the other three agencies have made similar commitments and to future consideration regarding the Department's supervision of this project;
- (c)approve the mainlining of the projects listed in Appendix 1 of the Director's report for the financial year 1996/97;
- (d)agree to consider evaluation reports on these projects prior to agreeing budget allocations for 1997/98, and

(e)agree to consider evaluation reports on Wellwise and Skillstart prior to considering future funding options.

- (2) remit the report and the recommendations contained therein to the Policy and Resources Committee.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING INITIATIVE (YETI) 1996

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the development and future delivery of the North Lanarkshire Council Youth Employment and Training Initiative (YETI) 1996.

Decided:

- (1) that gross expenditure of \$62,582 on the Scheme in the financial year 1996/97 be approved, subject to adequate budget provision;
- (2) that the proposed administrative and management arrangements of the Scheme as set out in the Director's report be approved, including delegation to the Senior Economic Development Officer and Economic Development Manager to approve applications with a value of under \$5,000 and to the Economic Development Manager and Head of Economic Development and Property to approve applications with a value between \$5,000 and \$10,000;
- (3) that expenditure of \$3,500 for marketing and promotion of the Scheme during the financial year 1996/97 be approved, and
- (4) that progress reports on the operation of the Scheme be submitted to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

BUSINESS FOCUS NEWSLETTER

3. There was submitted a report dated 30 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the Department's production of a newsletter entitled 'Business Focus' as part of their quarterly marketing plan, intimating that the publication is to be produced ten times per year on a monthly basis with the exception of December/January and July/August when only one edition in each two month period will be produced and that the publication has been designed to be one of the main vehicles of the Council's communication with the business community.

Decided:

- (1) that annual expenditure of \$29,190 on the Business Focus Newsletter be approved, and

- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORY

4. There was submitted a report dated 30 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the Department's production at a cost of \$3,010 of an Economic Development Services Directory as part of their quarterly marketing plan.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

STRATEGY FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE TOWN CENTRES

5. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 May 1996 there was submitted a report dated 30 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the development and future delivery of a strategy for North Lanarkshire Town Centres, the purpose of which will be to identify priorities on a North Lanarkshire basis and to develop action plans.

Decided:

- (1) that the strategic development process as set out in the Director's report be approved, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

PROGRAMME FOR PARTNERSHIP: EDU ACTION PROGRAMMES

6. There was submitted a report dated 28 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the proposed economic development input to the Council's regeneration strategy, with particular reference to the Council's submission to the Scottish Office in relation to the Programme for Partnership.

Decided: to remit the report and the recommendations contained therein to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL BUSINESS LOANS FUND (NLBLF): CAPITAL AND EMPLOYMENT IN AREAS OF PRIORITY (CEAP) 1996

7. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 May 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the development and future delivery

of the North Lanarkshire Council Business Loans Fund (NLBLF):
Capital and Employment in Areas of Priority (CEAP) Scheme 1996.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed administrative arrangements of the Scheme as set out in the Director's report be approved;
- (2) that those Companies fulfilling the eligibility criteria of the Scheme be considered for CEAP funding from within the North Lanarkshire Business Loans Fund (NLBLF), and
- (3) that otherwise the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE TOURISM FORUM

8. There was submitted a report dated 7 June 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the establishment of North Lanarkshire Tourism Forum.

Decided: that consideration of the report be continued.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PRESENTATION

9. There was submitted a report dated 30 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of the generation, launch and future delivery of the Council's Economic Development Services Presentation as part of the Department's quarterly marketing plan.

Decided:

- (1) that continuation of the delivery of the presentation across North Lanarkshire be approved;
- (2) that the staff of the Economic Development Unit of the Department be congratulated for their input and contribution to the success of this venture, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be noted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS - INDUSTRIAL TOUR

10. There was submitted a report dated 7 June 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development proposing that members of the Committee participate in a tour of major economic development projects in North Lanarkshire with a view to increasing awareness of the progress being made in economic development terms across the northern, central and southern areas of North Lanarkshire, and suggesting that 25 September 1996 be earmarked as a possible

date for that tour.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further with regard to proposals to extend the invitation to the tour to local Community Councillors.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Planning and Development be authorised to organise an industrial tour to take place on a date to be determined following consultation with the Convener and that local Community Councillors be invited, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE BUSINESS LISTINGS/BUSINESS DIRECTORY

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to proposals to develop a database which would provide information on Companies in the area, and from that to produce a North Lanarkshire Council Business Directory.

Decided:

- (1) that gross expenditure of \$18,000 be allocated from the Promotions budget to this project;
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Development be authorised to appoint a Consultant to undertake the initial work to develop the database, subject to the tender process being completed, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be noted.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UPDATE

12. There was submitted a report dated 28 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to Interpack 1996 held in Dusseldorf, Germany from 9-15 May 1996, the first international event led by North Lanarkshire Council on behalf of the West of Scotland Trade Partnership (the arrangement made between the 12 new unitary authorities within the former Strathclyde Region), to manage local authority led international trade activity in the West of Scotland.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL BUSINESS LOANS FUND (NLBLF): ENVIRONMENTAL LOANS FUND (ELF) 1996

13. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of

this

Committee held on 2 May 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to proposals for the incorporation into North Lanarkshire Council Business Loans Fund (NLBLF) of an Environmental Loans Fund (ELF) for award at the discretion of the Council to businesses involved in the development of new products, processes or activities which lead to environmental benefit.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals for an Environmental Loans Fund Scheme as set out in the Director's report be approved;
- (2) that those Companies fulfilling the eligibility criteria of the Scheme be considered for ELF funding from within the North Lanarkshire Business Loans Fund (NLBLF), and
- (3) that the contents of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH POWER OFFER FOR SOUTHERN WATER

14. There was submitted a letter dated 28 May 1996 from the Managing Director, Energy Supply, Scottish Power, intimating that Scottish Power had on 28 May 1996 announced that it had made an offer for Southern Water and that discussions with that Company were ongoing with a view to seeking a recommendation on the offer.

Decided:that the contents of the letter be noted.

PETERSBURN CRAIGNEUK INITIATIVE, AIRDRIE - APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS

*@AN5

15. There was submitted a letter dated 29 April 1996 from the Co-ordinator, Petersburn Craigneuk Initiative, Airdrie inviting the Council to apply for membership of the Initiative and to nominate representatives to serve on the Board of Directors.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council agree to apply for membership of the Initiative and to nominate two members to serve on the Board of Directors, on the understanding that the Company structure might be altered at a later date to allow for increased representation by the Council, and
- (2) that the matter be remitted to the Council meeting for nomination of members.

STEEL ACTION - NEXT MEETING

16. There was submitted a letter dated 23 May 1996 from the Co-ordinator, Steel Action (representing local authorities in the Steel Communities of the UK) intimating that the next Ordinary General Meeting of Steel Action would take place on Friday 21 June 1996 in London, and extending an invitation to the Council to be represented at the meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council agree to be represented at the meeting, and
- (2) that otherwise the contents of the letter be noted.

PROPOSED ACQUISITION BY FIRSTBUS PLC OF S.B. HOLDINGS LIMITED

17. There was submitted a letter dated 28 May 1996 from the Mergers Secretariat, Office Of Fair Trading with regard to the proposed acquisition by Firstbus Plc of S.B. Holdings Limited, and inviting any comments which the Council might care to make thereon.

Decided:that the contents of the letter be noted.

CENTRE FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC STRATEGIES (CLES) - REGISTER OF TRUSTEES

18. There was submitted a letter dated 13 May 1996 from the Subscriber Services Section, Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) with regard to a Register of Trustees.

Decided:that consideration of the letter be continued.

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - SCOTTISH SCREEN LOCATIONS (SSL)

19. There was submitted a report dated 30 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to an application for financial assistance from Scottish Screen Locations (SSL), a body appointed by the Scottish Office to promote film production in Scotland.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further in the matter and with regard to the sum being requested.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree, in principle, to support the application;

- (2) that determination of the level of assistance be deferred meantime, and
- (3) that the SSL publication entitled 'Screen Locations in Lanarkshire' be noted.

CONFERENCES ETC.

(1) "BUSINESS IN EUROPE"

20. There was submitted an invitation from CBI Conferences to the Council to be represented at its one-day Conference entitled "Business in Europe" to be held in Edinburgh on 11 June 1996.

Decided:that the Council homologate the action taken in being represented at the Conference by the Vice-Convener and Councillor McKeown at no cost to the Authority.

(2) "BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA"

21. There was submitted an invitation from CBI Conferences to the Council to be represented at its one-day Conference entitled "Business Opportunities in South Africa" to be held in London on 10 July 1996.

Decided:that no attendance at this Conference be authorised.

(3) "SYRIA: AN EMERGING MARKET FOR U.K. BUSINESS"

22. There was submitted an invitation from CBI Conferences to the Council to be represented at its one-day Conference entitled "Syria: An Emerging Market for U.K. Business" to be held in London on 11 June 1996.

Decided:that no attendance at this Conference be authorised.

(4) "HOUSING AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY - BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE"

23. There was submitted an invitation from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to the Council to be represented at its Summer School "Housing and the Local Economy - Building a Better Future" to be held in Manchester from 2 to 4 July 1996.

Decided:that the Council agree to be represented at the Summer School by the Vice-Convener, whom failing a substitute member, one other member and an appropriate officer.

(5) "INWARD INVESTMENT"

24. There was submitted an invitation from the Federation of Economic Development Authorities (FEDA) to the Council to be represented at its one-day Seminar entitled "Inward Investment" to be held in Stoke-on-Trent on 4 July 1996.

Decided:that the Council agree to be represented at the Seminar by one member and an appropriate officer.

(6) "THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE"

25. There was submitted an invitation from the Institution of Economic Development to the Council to be represented at the National Economic Development Conference to be held in York on 10 and 11 October 1996.

Decided:that no attendance at this Conference be authorised.

(7) "LOCAL FUTURES: THRIVING LOCALLY IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY"

26. There was submitted an invitation from the Henley Centre for Forecasting Limited to the Council to be represented at its one-day Conference entitled "Local Futures: Thriving Locally in the Global Economy" to be held in London on 26 June 1996.

Decided:that no attendance at this Conference be authorised.

LANARKSHIRE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE: FEASIBILITY STUDY

27. There was submitted a report dated 6 June 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development requesting that consideration be given to the Committee receiving a presentation on the Consultant's report on the feasibility study on the proposed Lanarkshire Information Technology Centre.

Decided:that a special meeting of the Committee be arranged at a date to be agreed to receive a presentation on the proposed Lanarkshire Information Technology Centre.

BONUS PAYOUT TO LEVI STRAUSS (UK) LIMITED EMPLOYEES

28. Councillor Curran, Convener, made reference to the announcement in the national press by Levi Strauss (UK) Limited

management that employees at the Company's three factories in Scotland, including Bellshill, were set to share in a \$500 million bonus payout as part of a Company promotion to mark the new millennium and which could result in employees netting up to a year's wages in the year 2001.

Decided:that the Director of Planning and Development be authorised to write to Levi Strauss (UK) Limited welcoming the bonus to be paid to employees and congratulating the Company on the initiative.