

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: INLOGOV CONFERENCE: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THE 1996 POLICY AGENDA
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 31 July 1996	Ref: JT/.055	

**Introduction**

At a meeting of the Economic Development Committee held on 2 May 1996 it was agreed that the Chair, one other member and one official attend the INLOGOV conference on Local Economic Development "The 1996 Policy Agenda" held at the University of Birmingham on 18 July 1996.

This report summarises the conference which was attended by Councillor Harry Curran, Councillor Jim Robertson and John Turley, Senior Economic Development Officer.

**Conference**

The conference comprised of sessions relating to :-

- (i) **The Impact on Local Economic Development of the Government Offices;** This session consisted of a presentation outlining ten contrasting approaches to the definition of local economic development and highlighted the development of local economic development as a local government service since the recession of 1980-85 and the role of Central and local intervention in economic development from 1980.
- (ii) **The Impact of Europe;** This presentation consisted of an overview on how Europe works, the European concept of economic policy, Europe 2000+, regional policy, urban policy and European funding.

- (iii) **Partnerships;** This session consisted of a presentation relating to partnerships in the 1990's which included an overview of regionalism and partnerships, partnerships involving business, TEC's and local communities.
- (iv) This particular session comprised of a presentation concerning local development and employment initiatives, inward investment, the flexible labour force, the role of local strategies and initiatives, examples of training programmes, capital receipts and environmental policy.
- (v) This last session comprised of a presentation related to the effectiveness of local economic development and examined the role that partnerships, strategic alliances and the public sector play in the delivery of local economic development functions.

## Conclusion

The 1996 INLOGOV Local Economic Development conference provided the opportunity for elected members and officers from various Councils within the UK to discuss and exchange ideas on the delivery of economic development. Of particular interest to the elected members and officer from North Lanarkshire were the sessions relating to the involvement of the European Union, job creation and training, the effectiveness of community based initiatives in economic development and the role of partnerships and strategic alliances in the delivery of economic development strategies.

The information obtained at the conference will be disseminated to all officers within the Economic Development Unit in order that they become aware of current practices and developments within the field of local economic development.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) Note the contents of this report and;
- (ii) That conference papers are available within the Members Library.



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For further information please contact Gordon Smith, Head of Economic Development & Property