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Motherwell, 15 August 1996 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Curran, Convener; Councillor Connelly, Vice-Convener;
Councillors
Barrie, Beekman, Brooks, Coyle, Gray, Lucas, Lunny, McElroy, McKendrick,
R. McKenna, Macleod, G. Murray, Pentland and Robertson.

CHAIR

Councillor Curran (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer, Director of Planning and
Development, Economic Development Manager and A. Gardiner, Policy
Planning Manager.

APOLOGIES

Provost Mathieson and Councillors H. McGuigan, McKeown, Shaw and
Wallace.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE TOURISM FORUM

1. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of
this

Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report
dated 11 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development
with regard to the establishment of North Lanarkshire Tourism
Forum in the current financial year 1996/97.

Decided:

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- (1) that the Committee agree, in principle, to the inception
of the North Lanarkshire Tourism Forum, and
 - (2) that the Conveners of the Economic Development and of
the Leisure Services Committees be appointed to serve on
the Forum.

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

2. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of
this Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a
report dated 1 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and

Development with regard to the Council's continued membership of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES).

since
plus
no formal agreement had yet been made to take out a North Lanarkshire Council subscription, the time was now opportune to report to Committee the current subscription rates i.e. \$6,540 VAT for 12 months and the nature of the work carried out by the organisation.

Decided:

- availability;
- (1) that the Council agree to become members of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) on the expiry of the current subscription period, subject to funding
 - (2) that the Director of Planning and Development, Convener and Vice-Convener of the Economic Development Committee continue in their roles as Contact Officer, Trustee and Deputy Trustee respectively, on behalf of North Lanarkshire Council, and
 - (3) that the contents of the report be noted meantime.

TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVES LIMITED - CHARITABLE STATUS

3. this
might
With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report dated 1 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking the Committee's approval to alter the objectives of Town Centre Initiatives Limited in order that it attain charitable status.

Decided: that the Committee agree that the objectives of Town Centre Initiatives Limited be altered appropriately as set out in the Director's report.

FORMATION OF AIRDRIE TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

4. There was submitted a report dated 30 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking Council approval for the formation and establishment of Airdrie Town Centre Working Group and for a member of the Committee to be nominated to serve on the Group.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council agree to the formation and establishment of Airdrie Town Centre Working Group;
- (2) that Councillor Sullivan be appointed as the Council's representative on the Group, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be noted.

SHOPMOBILITY

5. There was submitted a report dated 31 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking Council approval for further investigation into the possible establishment of a Shopmobility Scheme for some of the town centres within the North Lanarkshire area.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree that Town Centre Initiatives Limited should continue with researching the feasibility of a Shopmobility Scheme and report back with any findings or recommendations to Committee at a later date, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted meantime.

FORGEWOOD HOLDINGS - NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

6. There was submitted a report dated 5 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the Council's continued representation on the Board of Forgewood Holdings.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development advised the Committee that Forgewood Holdings was set up in 1990 as part of the Forgewood Initiative; that the Holding Company was financed by a group of Companies which included Forgewood Landscaping, Forgewood Security and Forgewood Market Research and had been established in 1993 and that, previously, the former Motherwell District Council had been represented on the Board of Forgewood Holdings by a Business Development Officer who had continued representation after 1 April 1996 on behalf of North Lanarkshire Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree to the Council's continued representation on the Board of Forgewood Holdings, and
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Development be authorised to appoint Mr. John Turley, Senior Economic Development Officer (or appropriate substitute) as the Council's representative on Forgewood Holdings.

BOOST FOR BUSINESS START-UP - ERDF APPROVAL

7. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 May 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that an application previously submitted to Strathclyde European Partnership for European Regional Development Funding approval to increase the funding of the Boost for Business Start-up Programme which would enable the project to be extended across North Lanarkshire, had now been approved for the 1996-97 and 1997-98 period.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development advised the Committee that the total now available to be spent on

the Programme in this period amounted to \$189,394 enabling the Council to award approximately 150 start-up grants each year across North Lanarkshire for 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree that the Director of Planning and Development forward a letter of acceptance to Strathclyde European Partnership for European Regional Development funding in the sum of \$189,394 for the Boost for Business Start-Up Programme, confirming the North Lanarkshire Council element contribution would be met from existing budgets, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

LANARKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT 1995-96

8. There was submitted a report dated 1 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that Lanarkshire Development Agency had recently produced their Annual Report outlining its key results and details of financial expenditure

in the

financial year 1995-96, and that copies of the report were available in the Members' Library for Members' perusal.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further in the matter and provided a summary of the results

achieved in so far as they related to the Council's area.

Decided:

- (1) that details of projects sponsored by the L.D.A. in the former Monklands District Council areas be provided to Councillor Brooks, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

COSLA ISSUES BRIEFING - EUROPEAN COMMISSION POLICY PAPER
"ACTION FOR EMPLOYMENT IN EUROPE - A CONFIDENCE PACT"

9. There was submitted a report dated 30 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that COSLA's European and International Affairs Team had recently begun its production of Issues Briefing Papers and that the intended nature of such documents were to inform Members and officers as to the importance and relevance of an EC policy or legislative proposal.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further in regard to Issues Paper No. 2 outlining the recent

European Commission policy proposal titled "Action for Employment in Europe - A Confidence Pact".

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION - SCOTTISH COMMERCIAL &
INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION (SCIENTIA)

10. There was submitted a report dated 2 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that the Scottish Commercial & Industrial Education and Training International Association (SCIENTIA) had extended an invitation to the Council to take up membership of the organisation during the financial year 1996-97 at a cost of \$100.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development advised the Committee that as a result of discussions between his

Department and the Education Department, it had been agreed that membership and involvement in the Scottish Commercial & Industrial Education and Training International Association (SCIENTIA) would be divided between the two Council Departments.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree that the Planning and Development Department take up membership of the Scottish Commercial & Industrial Education and Training International Association (SCIENTIA) on a joint basis with the Education Department in the financial year 1996-97 at a cost of \$100 (\$50 from each Department), and
- (2) that the Convener and one officer be appointed as the Council's representatives to serve on the Association.

STEEL ACTION - ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING - 21 JUNE 1996

11. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report dated 22 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the outcome of the Steel Action Ordinary General Meeting held in London on 21 June 1996 at

which the Council had been represented.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development advised the Committee that a number of items had been discussed at the meeting which had relevance to the continuing steel industry in the area and to the RESIDER II Programme, and that copies of these reports were available from his Department. He further intimated that one item of concern raised additionally to was that a plate mill in Belgium (Forges de Clabecq), was likely to receive state aid in contravention of EC policy, and that this decision could adversely affect production at UK plants at Scunthorpe and locally at Dalziel.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council agree that the Director of Planning and Development correspond with the Competition Directorate, European Commission expressing concern that the Belgian Government is considering granting aid to one of its steel mills in contravention of agreed EC procedures;
- (2) that a copy of the letter be forwarded to Mr. Ken Collins, MEP;
- (3) that the Council agree to be represented at future Steel Action meetings;
- (4) that the Committee support the suggestion that elected members be involved in the RESIDER II Programme Monitoring Committee and both the European Commission and Department of Trade and Industry be advised accordingly, and
- (5) that the contents of the report be noted.

STEEL ACTION - MEMBERSHIP

12. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report dated 1 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking authority for the Council's continued membership of Steel Action, an organisation set up to bring local steel authorities together to promote and protect the interests of steel communities in the UK.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development advised the Committee that the former Motherwell District Council had been a founder member of Steel Action, and that it had been assumed by that organisation that North Lanarkshire Council would be continuing with membership. He further intimated that since April, 1996 meetings of Steel Action had been attended by representatives of the Council, and that the Leader of the Council

remained on the Executive Committee of the Organisation.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree to the Council's continued membership of Steel Action at no cost;
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Development be authorised to advise Steel Action's Secretariat of the Council's intention to formally become members of the Organisation, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be noted.

BRITISH STEEL PLC - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13. There was submitted a report dated 5 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that the Annual General Meeting of British Steel plc had taken place in London on 24

July

1996 and that the Council had been represented at the meeting by the Vice-Convener of the Committee.

In that connection, Councillor Connelly was heard further in the matter and with regard to the points he raised at the meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee homologate the action taken in authorising the attendance of Councillor Connelly at the British Steel plc Annual General Meeting, and
- (2) that the Committee note the response received by Councillor Connelly from Sir Brian Moffat OBE, Chairman and Chief Executive of British Steel plc as set out in the Annex to the Director's report.

STRATHCLYDE DEFENCE INDUSTRIES WORKING PARTY (SDIWP) -
APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

14. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this

Committee held on 14 March 1996 there was submitted a report dated 25 July 1996 by the Director of Administration intimating that the Committee had previously agreed to participate in the Strathclyde Defence Industries Working Party (SDIWP) after reorganisation on 1 April 1996 following receipt of an

invitation

from the STUC and seeking the appointment of one Member and one officer to serve on the Working Party.

Decided: that the Committee agree to appoint Councillor Connelly and the Director of Planning and Development or his nominee to serve as the Council's representatives on Strathclyde Defence Industries Working Party (SDIWP) and that the Director of

Administration be authorised to advise the STUC accordingly.

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FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES
SEMINAR - "INWARD INVESTMENT"

15. With reference to paragraph 24 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report dated 15 August 1996 by the Head of Economic Development and Property with details of the outcome of the above one-day seminar held in Stoke-on-Trent on 4 July 1996 which he had attended with Councillor McKeown and himself.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

ENTERPRISE TRUST FUNDING

16. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 1 February 1996 there was submitted a report dated 31 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development summarising the current position concerning the role and financing of the three Enterprise Trusts established within the area of North Lanarkshire to provide a range of services to unemployed residents and SME's (Small to Medium Enterprises).

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further in the matter and with regard to the funding formula proposed for each of the Trusts.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree, in principle, to make financial contributions to the three Trusts, as set out below, subject to adequate budget funding provision:-
- Motherwell Enterprise Trust - \$36,000
 - Monklands Enterprise Trust - \$27,200
 - Cumbernauld Area Enterprise Trust - \$16,800;
- (2) that Council representation on the Board of Enterprise Trusts should cease forthwith, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be noted.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FORUM - CENTRAL AREA

17. There was submitted a report dated 1 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the establishment of an Employment and Training Forum in the Central area.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further in the matter and with regard to the first Employment and Training Forum meeting for the Central area held on 26 June 1996, and the Department's commitment to investigating methods of expanding such Forums across the wider spectrum of the authority.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

UFRA 1996 SCHWEINFURT, GERMANY - 12-20 OCTOBER 1996

18. There was submitted a report dated 30 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to UFRA 1996 the Unterfranken Consumer Exhibition held biennially in October and which had traditionally enjoyed the participation of representatives of Schweinfurt's Twin Town.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development advised the Committee that in 1994 a delegation consisting of two

Members and three officials of the former Motherwell District Council together with three members of the local business community had attended the Exhibition.

He further reported that for this year's event, it was proposed that

Members would participate in Civic events arranged to mark the occasion and to cement the twinning relationship, whilst officials

would attend to the management of a stand within the Exhibition, displaying and offering samples of Scottish Companies' products, and generally publicising the local North Lanarkshire area, whilst

as in previous years the Council would arrange for local musicians

to attend the Exhibition to provide a Scottish element to the entertainment programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree that 2 officers from the Economic Development Unit of the Department be authorised to attend the Exhibition, and
- (2) that consideration of members attendance be continued meantime.

ACE LIMITED - CITY CARD

19. There was submitted a publication dated July 1996 from the City

Card Sales Co-ordinator, Ace Limited with details of an important breakthrough in community information services, ie. City Card, an electronic public information service designed to address the needs and aspirations of Local Government in the provision of community information and Council services. The initiative also aimed to support Councils in delivering local and regional information to their communities and to assist them to use effectively the resources available to them.

Decided: that a presentation from Ace Limited on the merits of introducing a City Card service within North Lanarkshire be given at a future meeting that all Members of the Council be invited to attend.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL BUSINESS LOANS FUND (NLBLF)
- LEVEL OF OFFICER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

20. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this

Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking authority to raise the level of officer delegated authority for loans awarded under the North Lanarkshire Council Business Loans Fund (NLBLF) Scheme from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Decided: that the Committee agree to raise the level of officer delegated authority for loans awarded under the North Lanarkshire Council Business Loans Fund (NLBLF) Scheme from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE MOTHERWELL - PROGRESS REPORT

21. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of applications received and approved by the Generator Fund Allocation Panel of Community Enterprise Motherwell during the period from 27 March to 23 July 1996.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee homologate the action taken by the Panel in making the awards as set out in the Director's report, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

BOOST FOR BUSINESS START-UP - QUARTERLY REPORT

22. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of

this Committee held on 2 May 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of applications received and approved under the Council's Boost for Business Start-Up Scheme during the quarter 1 April to 30 June 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL BUSINESS LOANS FUND (NLBLF)
- QUARTERLY REPORT

23. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of applications received and approved under the Council's Business Loans Fund Scheme during the quarter 1 April to 30 June 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT GRANTS SCHEME
1996 - QUARTERLY REPORT

24. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 May 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of applications received and approved under the Council's Employment Grants Scheme during the quarter 1 April to 30 June 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
TRAINING GRANTS SCHEME (MTTG) 1996 - QUARTERLY REPORT

25. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 May 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of applications received and approved under the Council's Management and Technology Training Grants Scheme during the quarter 1 April to 30 June 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL TRAINING ASSISTANCE GRANTS
SCHEME (TAG) 1996 - QUARTERLY REPORT

26. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of

applications received and approved under the Council's Training Assistance Grants Scheme during the quarter 1 April to 30 June 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

LANARKSHIRE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE: FEASIBILITY STUDY

27. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the special meeting of this Committee held on 4 July 1996 there was submitted a report dated 7 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that the Working Group which the Committee had previously agreed should be established following its special meeting on 4 July 1996 to consider future action on the Project and comprising the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Committee and representatives of the Consultants, Officers and Outside Agencies had held its first meeting on 14 August 1996.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further in the matter and with regard to the outcome of that meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that with regard to future participation in the Working Party representatives of both the Chief Executive's and Finance Departments be requested to attend, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted meantime.

SCOTTISH SCREEN LOCATIONS - GENERAL MEETING 9 JULY 1996

28. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report dated 1 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to a general meeting of Scottish Screen Locations (SSL) which had been held in Edinburgh on 9 July 1996 at which the Council had been represented by the Convener and Miss Deborah Willie of the Economic Development Unit.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further in the matter and with regard to the Organisation's progress to date and the Council's involvement in same.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - SCOTTISH SCREEN LOCATIONS (SSL)

29. With reference to paragraph 19 of the minute of the meeting of

this Committee held on 13 June 1996 the Committee resumed consideration of the report dated 30 May 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the application for financial assistance from Scottish Screen Locations (SSL) in the financial year 1996-97, a body appointed by the Scottish Office to promote film production in Scotland.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development reminded the Committee of its previous decision to agree in principle, to support the application but to defer meantime the level of assistance to be paid. He further intimated that a

letter dated 12 July 1996 had now been received by the Chief Executive from the Director of Scottish Screen Locations (SSL) requesting a contribution from the Council in the sum of \$6,704 plus VAT, a total contribution of \$7,877.20.

Decided: that the Committee agree to make a financial contribution to Scottish Screen Locations (SSL) in the sum of \$7,877.20 subject to funding availability in the financial year 1996-97.

CONFERENCES ETC.

(1) "THE BATTLE AGAINST RETAIL CRIME"

30. There was submitted an invitation from Neil Stewart Associates for the Council to be represented at its one-day Seminar entitled "The Battle against Retail Crime" held in Glasgow on 20 June 1996.

Decided: that the Council homologate the action taken in being represented at the Seminar by the Vice-Convener Councillor Connelly.

(2) "COALFIELD COMMUNITIES CAMPAIGN - ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1996"

31. There was submitted an invitation from the Coalfield Communities Campaign for the Council to be represented at its annual Conference 1996 to be held in Stoke-on-Trent from 17 to 19 September 1996.

Decided: that the Council be represented at the Conference by the Convener, whom failing a substitute member and one other member.

(3) "INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE"

32. There was submitted an invitation from the Association of District

Councils (ADC) for the Council to be represented at its Conference

entitled "Investing for the Future" to be held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne from 4 to 6 November 1996.

Decided: that no attendance at this Conference be authorised.

(4) "LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: THE 1996 POLICY AGENDA"

33. With reference to paragraph 27 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 May 1996, there was submitted a report dated 31 July 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with details of the outcome of the above one-day Seminar held in Stoke-on-Trent on 4 July 1996 attended by the Convener, Councillor Robertson and a Senior Economic Development Officer.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

(5) "FEDA REGIONAL MEETING AND STUDY TOUR"

34. There was submitted an invitation from the Federation of Economic Development Authorities (FEDA) for the Council to be represented at its next Regional Meeting and Study Tour to be held in Hartlepool from 4 to 6 September 1996.

Decided: that the Council be represented by the Convener, whom failing a substitute member, and one other member.

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(6) "THE USES AND ABUSES OF CCTV"

35. There was submitted an invitation from the Scottish Local Government Information Unit to the Council to be represented at its one-day Seminar entitled "The Uses and Abuses of CCTV" to be held in Glasgow on 11 September 1996.

Decided: that the Council be represented by the Vice-Convener, when failing a substitute member.

The Convener being of the opinion that the following item of business was urgent by virtue of the need to provide adequate support to employees of Cummins Engineering threatened with redundancy authorised consideration of a late report by the Director of Planning and Development.

CUMMINS ENGINES ENGINEERING COMPANY - UPDATE

36. There was submitted a report dated 15 August 1996 by the

Director of Planning and Development with regard to the range of services currently being provided to the workforce at the
Cummins

Plant in Shotts by the Council following upon that Company's announcement confirming that approximately 520 employees were to be made redundant on 27 September 1996.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further in the matter and with regard to the Department's commitment to keep in close contact with the workforce involved.

Thereafter, Councillor Robertson the local member requested that his appreciation to the staff of the Economic Development Unit
of

the Department be recorded in the Minute of the meeting in recognition of their efforts on behalf of the workforce at the
Plant,

and these sentiments were echoed by the Convener.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.