

AU5

ECONOMIC.DEV1996M

Motherwell, 12 September 1996 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Curran, Convener; Councillor Connelly, Vice-Convener;
Councillors
Barrie, Brooks, Coyle, Gray, Lucas, McKendrick, R. McKenna, G. Murray,
Pentland, Shaw and Stocks.

CHAIR

Councillor Curran (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer, The Head of Accounting Services,
Finance Department, Head of Economic Development and Property and
Policy Planning Manager, Chief Executive's Department.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Beekman, Lunny, McElroy, Sullivan and Wallace.

URBAN PROGRAMME FUNDED PROJECTS SUPERVISED BY THE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 September 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) advising of the status of projects supervised by his Department, currently or recently funded under the Urban Programme as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; (2) outlining future action where appropriate, and (3) seeking approval of recommendations on action on the termination of Urban Programme Funding for the projects listed in Appendix 2 and as detailed in the summary of recommendations listed in Appendix 3.

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further in the matter and in response to various points raised by Members.

Decided: that the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

UFRA 1996 SCHWEINFURT, GERMANY - 12-20 OCTOBER 1996

2. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996 the Committee resumed consideration of a report dated 30 July 1996 by the Director of

Planning and Development with regard to Members' attendance at the Unterfranken Consumer Exhibition in October 1996.

It was noted that the Committee had previously agreed that two officers from the Economic Development Unit of the Planning and Development Department be authorised to attend the Exhibition.

Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Brooks, moved acceptance of the recommendation in the report that the Council be represented at the Exhibition by the Provost and Convener of the Committee.

Councillor G. Murray, seconded by Councillor Stocks, moved as an amendment that there be no Member representation at the Exhibition.

On a vote being taken 2 Members voted for the amendment and 11 Members voted for the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the Council be represented at the Exhibition by the Provost and Convener of the Committee in addition to those officers previously agreed.

UNEMPLOYMENT MONITORING

3. There was submitted a report dated 4 September 1996 by the Chief Executive summarising the current position with regard to the regular provision of North Lanarkshire Unemployment statistics and trends on a ward basis to Committee.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted meantime.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE ECONOMIC MONITOR PUBLICATION

4. There was submitted a report dated 4 September 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the proposed publication of the North Lanarkshire Economic Monitor which would outline economic trends and statistics for North Lanarkshire, provide information on economic sectors and companies within them and trends in the local property market.

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further and on similar documents produced by other Councils.

Decided: that the Committee

- (1) note the proposal and agree in principle to the Department contributing to the development of the Council's Economic Monitor Publication;
- (2) authorise the allocation of \$5,000 towards the costs of its production, and

- (3) agree that a more detailed report be submitted to Committee at a later date outlining its proposed content, identifying those who wished to contribute to the publication and specifying the management and other arrangements to be established.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT: ENQUIRY HANDLING SYSTEM

5. There was submitted a report dated 3 September 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development summarising the current position with regard to the development of a system of logging enquiries received by the Department's Economic Development Unit for each of its services, and outlining the number of enquiries received by the Unit during the period from April to June 1996.

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further in the matter and concerning the Unit's intention to produce regular quarterly reports to Committee on the development of the system.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE BUSINESS LISTINGS/BUSINESS DIRECTORY

6. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development updating Members 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.

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property advised the Committee that the database was now complete and listed 4,875 businesses, 1,023 of which were retail and that the overall cost of providing the database had been met from within the original budgeted figure.

Decided:that the Committee agree to the publication of the North Lanarkshire Council Business Directory in December 1996, financed through advertising as set out in the report.

REPORT OF THE EU COMMON FISHERIES POLICY REVIEW GROUP

7. There was submitted a report dated 3 September 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of a report of the EU Common Fisheries Policy Review Group published on 24 July 1996, a copy of which had been received from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, and seeking initial responses

thereon.

Decided:

(1) that the Chief Executive respond to COSLA on behalf of the Council in line with the contents of the report, and

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

Councillor G. Murray being the mover of an unsuccessful amendment requested that his dissent be recorded.

NEW LANARKSHIRE LIMITED - PROJECT FUNDING

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 September 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the development and future delivery of New Lanarkshire Limited, a Scheme which had been in existence for almost five years to bring together representatives of the public and private sector for the purposes of promoting civic pride in Lanarkshire. It was noted

that

the Council was entitled to appoint 3 Members to the Company and that the Economic Development Unit Manager attended Board meetings as an observer.

The Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further on the operation of the Scheme through the Lanarkshire Supercounty Campaign.

Decided:that the Committee

(1) approve of the nomination of the Convener, Councillor Heberton and Councillor McCulloch as Members of New Lanarkshire Limited;

(2) approve the proposed administrative arrangements of the Scheme as set out in the report;

(3) approve financial support to the Lanarkshire Supercounty Campaign viz:-

(a)Lanarkshire Business Awards - \$5,000;

(b)Lanarkshire Supercounty Calendar - \$2,000, and

(4) agree that a more detailed report be submitted to Committee at a later date outlining financial support from the Lanarkshire Supercounty Campaign to the Council.

LANARKSHIRE TOURISM STRATEGY

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 September 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development summarising the current position with regard to the establishment of a Tourism Strategy for the Lanarkshire area.

The Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further in the matter and on Tourism development in Lanarkshire as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Decided: that the report be noted meantime, pending the submission of a future report to Committee on the completed Strategy at a later date.

FORMATION OF WISHAW TOWN CENTRE FORUM

10. There was submitted a report dated 12 September 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking Council approval for the formation and establishment of Wishaw Town Centre Forum and for a Member to be nominated to serve on the Forum.

Decided:

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

PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE: A CONSULTATIVE PAPER FROM THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY

11. There was submitted a report dated 3 September 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of the Government's recent introduction of the Private Finance Initiative with the aim of increasing the role of the private sector in delivering public services.

The Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further in the matter and concerning the Scottish Council Development and Industry's recent consultative paper on the issue,

a copy of which had been placed in the Members' lounge for information.

Arising therefrom, Councillor Pentland advised the Committee that a report on this subject was due to be considered by the Council's

Finance Committee later that day, and that it was intended to arrange a seminar for Members on the matter.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted meantime.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL BUSINESS LOANS FUND (NLBLF) - APPROVALS UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

12. With reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of

this Committee held on 15 August 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of applications received and approved under delegated authority in terms of the Council's Business Loans Fund Scheme during the period ended August, 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROGRAMME 1997-98

13. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the proposed International Trade Programme 1997-98.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed programme of events for the financial year 1997-98 together with anticipated budget figures as set out in the report be approved;
- (2) that the proposals to buy forward from existing budget figures such key elements as stand space, etc. as set out in the Director's report be approved, and
- (3) that otherwise the contents of the report be noted.

ERDF FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE ACTIVITY

14. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report dated 23 August 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of an ERDF application currently in place covering the International Trade Programme of the West of Scotland Trade Partnership (WSTP) formed by the 12 new unitary authorities in the West of Scotland, following the disaggregation of Strathclyde Regional Council in order to maintain the level of international trade activity which had traditionally been undertaken by Strathclyde Business Development (SBD).

Decided:

- (1) that the Council's continued participation in an ERDF supported International Trade Programme as set out in the report be approved, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

EC STRUCTURAL FUNDS PRESENTATION - 27 AUGUST 1996

15. There was submitted a report dated 28 August 1996 by the

Director of Planning and Development with details of the main issues arising from the presentation by Strathclyde European Partnership to Members and Officers on the EC Structural Funds held on 27 August 1996 and which was chaired by the Convener, Councillor Curran.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT - ESTABLISHMENT

16. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 1 February 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 September 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development outlining a further stage of proposed refinements to the structure of the Economic Development Unit of the Department based on actual identified needs of the Unit which would result in the existing structure being increased from 24 posts to 26 posts.

Decided:that, in the light of the recommendations contained therein, and the policy implications thereof, the report be referred to the Personnel Services, Planning and Development and Policy and Resources Committees for further consideration.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

The Convener being of the opinion that the following item of business was urgent by reason of the need to give timeous consideration to a request for Council financial assistance authorised its consideration.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL BUSINESS LOANS FUND (NLBLF) - APPLICATION

17. With reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 September 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking approval of a loan application under the North Lanarkshire Council Business Loans Fund (NLBLF) Scheme in conjunction with the West of Scotland Loans Fund (WSLF) as part of a request for financial assistance to a Company presently in receivership.

Decided:that the loan application be approved, subject to the

Company meeting the necessary conditions required by the Head of Economic Development and Property and the Head of Legal Services.