

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Subject: KILSYTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TRADE	
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 8 October 1996	Ref: CMcA/LU/REP.081	

INTRODUCTION

This report seeks endorsement by the Committee of the appointment as Chair of Kilsyth Chamber of Trade and Commerce of North Lanarkshire Councils town centre manager. It also highlights areas of partnership activity that the town centre manager is currently involved with and developing in Kilsyth with Kilsyth Chamber of Commerce and Trade.

BACKGROUND

The town centre manager is based within the Economic Development Unit in Cumbernauld and works closely with Town Centre Initiatives Ltd as detailed in the previous report on Coatbridge.

Kilsyth Chamber of Commerce and Trade was formed in the 1960's by the town centre retailers to look after the interests of the local traders. This was in the period when Stirling was growing in importance as a shopping centre and trading levels in Kilsyth were beginning to decline. As Cumbernauld and Falkirk also grew in retail strength, trading in Kilsyth continued to fall and consequently the Chamber has continued its active role in representing the views of its members.

At the annual general meeting earlier this year, last year's President agreed to continue in office as no other members were willing to take on the role. The President has recently sold her business and retired, the Chamber faced the possibility of having to wind up its affairs because no replacement could be found. The Town Centre Manager has offered to chair the Chamber in order that it can continue and this was endorsed at the September meeting of the Chamber.

The town centre manager has been involved in various issues of concern to Kilsyth Chamber of Commerce and Trade. These have included the environmental, litter and community policing problems as well as the difficulties associated with the ongoing Housing Conservation Project.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the contents of the report and endorses the appointment of the town centre manager as chair of the Kilsyth Chamber of Commerce and Trade.



Stanley Cook
Director of Planning & Development

For further information contact Gordon Smith, Head of Economic Development and Planning.