

AU6
ECONOMIC.DEV1996M

Motherwell, 24 October 1996 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Curran, Convener; Councillor Connelly, Vice-Convener;
Councillors Barrie, Beekman, Gray, Lunny, H. McGuigan, McKendrick,
R. McKenna, Macleod, Provost Mathieson, G. Murray, Pentland,
Robertson and Wallace.

CHAIR

Councillor Curran (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Councillors Brooks, Coyle, Lucas, Shaw and Sullivan.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT) - FINANCIAL MONITORING
REPORT

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 October
1996 by the Director of Finance setting out the position
with regard to the spending level of the Economic Development
Unit of the Department of Planning and Development
against the approved budget for the period from 1 April to
15 September 1996.

Decided: that the report be noted.

CHRISTMAS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY IN TOWN CENTRES

2. There was submitted a report dated 8 October 1996 by the
Director of Planning and Development seeking Council
approval of the planned level of expenditure on promotional
activity in Town Centres within North Lanarkshire over the
Christmas period.

In that connection, the Economic Development Unit
Manager responded to various points raised by Members,
and was heard further in regard to the funding formula
proposed for each of the Town Centres concerned.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee agree to the allocation of \$4,000 towards the funding of Christmas promotional events in Town Centres within North Lanarkshire from existing funds in the "Contingency for Joint Ventures" budget, in conjunction with the allocation of \$4,000 funding from within the budget of New Lanarkshire Limited as set out below:-

	\$
Cumbernauld	400
Motherwell	200
Coatbridge, Airdrie and Kilsyth	1,000
Bellshill	1,000
Wishaw	3,900
Entertainment Staff and Gifts	1,500

(2) that the Director of Planning and Development consider the arrangements for the launch of Newmains Christmas Lights and the possibility of including proposals for Shotts and other rural areas in North Lanarkshire in a rural initiative for next year.

COATBRIDGE TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

3. There was submitted a report dated 8 October 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking the Council's endorsement of the appointment as Secretary of Coatbridge Traders' Association of North Lanarkshire Council's Town Centre Manager, Mr. David Evans.

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further in the matter and cited the appointment as an example of partnership with the private sector.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council endorse the appointment of Mr. Evans as Secretary of Coatbridge Traders' Association, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

KILSYTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TRADE

4. There was submitted a report dated 8 October 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking the Council's endorsement of the appointment as Chair of Kilsyth

Chamber of Commerce and Trade of North Lanarkshire Council's Town Centre Manager.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council endorse the appointment of the Town Centre Manager as Secretary of Kilsyth Chamber of Commerce and Trade, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

WISHAW CITIZENS' LOYALTY CARD

5. There was submitted a report dated 3 October 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that the Council had received a sponsorship proposal from the Wishaw Business Group for a project entitled "Wishaw Citizens' Loyalty Card".

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further in the matter and with regard to the launch of the Scheme by the Wishaw Business Group on 14 October 1996.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council agree to the referral of the sponsorship proposal to Town Centre Initiatives Limited for their consideration, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UPDATE

6. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 12 September 1996 there was submitted a report dated October 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the Brno International Engineering Fair 1996 held in Brno, Czech Republic from 16-21 September 1996, an international event led by North Lanarkshire Council on behalf of the West of Scotland Trade Partnership.

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further in the matter and intimated that four local based companies including three from North Lanarkshire had participated in the fair.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE CCTV REVIEW

7. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 May 1996 there was

submitted a report dated 7 October 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing an update for Members on the progress of the review of CCTV operations within North Lanarkshire.

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property reminded the Committee that it had been previously agreed to engage a Consultant to conduct a review of the present operation of the various monitoring systems, and to submit a report to either the September or October meeting of the Committee. However, he further advised the Committee that difficulties had arisen in obtaining statistics and other information from some of the Town Centre Trusts, and that it was now anticipated that a final report on the matter would be available for consideration at the December meeting of the Committee.

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

LADY ANNE TRAINING CENTRE, AIRDRIE

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 October 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development advising Members on the development to date of the Lady Anne Training Centre, Airdrie and Managed Workspace Project; outlining options on the future development of the Project, and recommending action on the basis of progress to date.

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property outlined the first phase of the Capital Works involved and was heard further with regard to the funding options available should the Council wish to proceed with the allocation of funding from the Capital Programme budget to complete the Project.

He further advised the Committee of the possibility of Lanarkshire Development Agency assistance with the Project, and of the role envisaged for Coatbridge College

in

the management of the Centre.

Decided: that the Committee

(1) approve, in principle, the continuation of the development of the Lady Anne Training Centre and Managed Workspace Project subject to the availability of adequate budget provision;

(2) approve of the bid for ERDF funding to complete the Capital Works involved;

Development
funding,
and

(3) authorise the Director of Planning and
to continue to seek alternative sources of
and

training (4) consider the possibility of incorporating elements of the Project into the refurbishment programme.

FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES (FEDA)

(1) REGIONAL MEETING

9. There was submitted a report dated 7 October 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development requesting that the Council consider hosting a Regional meeting in North Lanarkshire in the Autumn of 1997 of the Federation of Economic Development Authorities (FEDA) at a cost of between \$7,000-\$10,000.

In that connection, the Economic Development Unit Manager was heard further in the matter and with regard to the Council's current membership status within the Organisation.

Decided:

- Federation
- (1) that the Council agree to host a Regional meeting of the Federation of Economic Development Authorities (FEDA) in North Lanarkshire in the Autumn of 1997 at a cost of between \$7,000-\$10,000 and that the Director of Planning and Development be authorised to advise the
- costs accordingly;
- (2) that sponsorship of the event be sought from the private sector to assist in the defraying of associated with hosting the event, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be noted.

(2) NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ETC. FOR 1997

10. There was submitted a letter dated 9 October 1996 from the Secretary, Federation of Economic Development Authorities (FEDA) inviting nominations from the Council for the one Executive Committee place for an elected Member of the Association for Scotland.

Decided: that the Council agree to nominate Councillor Curran, Convener, or in the event that he is unable to accept the nomination, Councillor Connelly, Vice-Convener for membership of the Executive Committee for the Scotland Region.

ROBERT WISEMAN DAIRIES/SCOTTISH PRIDE MERGER
INQUIRY

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 October 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) had held an Inquiry into the possible merger between Robert Wiseman Dairies and Scottish Pride on 14 October 1996.

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further in the matter and with regard to some of the issues surrounding the possible merger and contents of the Council's submission to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) thereon.

Following discussion of a number of issues associated with the proposed merger and the need to ensure the position of employees' trade union rights the Head of Economic Development and Property intimated that he would arrange for a supplementary response to be submitted to the Commission thereon.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and Council's submission to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) as set out in Appendix 1 of the Director's report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Development submit a supplementary response to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reflecting the concerns of Members raised at the meeting.

INDUSTRIAL TOUR OF NORTH LANARKSHIRE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

12. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996 there was submitted a report dated 8 October 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of an industrial tour of North Lanarkshire Economic Development Projects proposed to be held on Wednesday, 6 November 1996 between 10 am - 4 pm 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 to which elected members, local MPs, MEPs, Community Councillors and various Officials were to be invited.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Planning and Development be authorised to organise the tour in terms of the itinerary proposed, and

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

LANARKSHIRE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE:
FEASIBILITY STUDY

13. With reference to paragraph 27 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 October 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing an update for Members on the action taken by the Working Group which the Committee had previously agreed should be established in submitting a bid for ERDF funding of \$15,000 in respect of the proposed feasibility study on information and communications technology networks.

In that connection, the Head of Economic Development and Property was heard further in the matter and with regard to the background to the bid.

Decided: that the Committee homologate the action taken by the Working Group in submitting the bid for ERDF funding as detailed in the Director's report.

QUARTERLY REPORTS ON BUSINESS/TRAINING ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMMES

(1) BOOST FOR BUSINESS START-UP

14. With reference to paragraph 22 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 October 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 from 1 July to 30 September 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

(2) EMPLOYMENT GRANTS SCHEME

15. With reference to paragraph 24 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 October 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 from 1 July to 30 September 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

(3) MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRAINING GRANTS
SCHEME

16. With reference to paragraph 25 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 October 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 from 1 July to 30 September 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

(4) TRAINING ASSISTANCE GRANTS SCHEME

17. With reference to paragraph 26 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 October 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 from 1 July to 30 September 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

STRATHCLYDE CREDIT UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
(SCUDA) - APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE

*@AN9

18. There was submitted a report dated 17 September 1996 by the Director of Administration concerning a letter which had

been received by the Chief Executive on 2 September 1996 from the Co-ordinator and Company Secretary, Strathclyde Credit Union Development Agency (SCUDA) intimating that the Board of Directors of the Agency had decided to expand its local authority representation on the Board, and

inviting

the Council to nominate a representative to serve thereon.

Decided: that consideration be continued.

UNEMPLOYMENT MONITORING

19. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 12 September 1996 there was submitted a report dated 24 October 1996 by the Chief Executive summarising the present unemployment position in North Lanarkshire together with the unemployment trends since the Council was established in April 1996.

In that connection, the Policy Planning Manager was heard further in explanation and with regard to the intention to provide future monitoring reports to Committee on a

quarterly basis.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

CONFERENCES ETC.

(1) "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"

20. There was submitted an invitation from John McFall M.P. for the Council to be represented at a one-day Conference entitled "Economic Development Strategies for the 21st Century" held at Loch Lomond on 11 October 1996.

Decided: that the Council homologate the action taken authorising the attendance at the Seminar of Councillor R. McKenna.

(2) "GENERATING THE JOBS OF THE FUTURE"

21. There was submitted an invitation from the Planning Exchange for the Council to be represented at its one-day Seminar entitled "Generating the Jobs of the Future" to be held in Newcastle on 31 October 1996.

Decided: that no attendance at this Seminar be authorised.

(3) "BECOMING WORLD CLASS - THE TIGER ECONOMIES"

22. There was submitted an invitation from the Advisory Scottish Council for Education and Training Targets (ASCETT) for the Council to be represented at its one-day Conference entitled "Becoming World Class - The Tiger Economies" to be held in Edinburgh on 6 November 1996.

Decided: that no attendance at this Conference be authorised.

(4) "THE DEFENCE OF EUROPEAN REGIONAL AID"

23. There was submitted an invitation from the Coalfield Communities Campaign for the Council to be represented at its one-day Conference entitled "The Defence of European Regional Aid" to be held in St. Helens on 8 November 1996.

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

(5) "REGENERATION THROUGH WORK"

24. There was submitted an invitation from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) for the Council to be represented at its Annual Conference 1996 entitled "Regeneration Through Work" to be held in Nottingham on 15 and 16 November 1996.

Decided: that the Council be represented at the Conference by the Vice-Convener, whom failing a substitute Member and an appropriate Officer.

ACE LIMITED - CITYCARD PUBLIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

25. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996 the Committee resumed consideration of the Ace Limited CityCard Public Information System and, in that connection, there was submitted a report dated 10 October 1996 by the Director of Administration.

The Convener then advised the Committee that it had been previously agreed that representatives of the Company be invited to give a presentation at a future meeting of the Committee on the merits of introducing a CityCard service within North Lanarkshire, and that all Members of the Council be invited to attend.

In that regard, he advised the Committee that an invitation had been extended to the Company to give a presentation on the matter immediately following today's meeting in the Council Chamber.

Decided: that the Committee receive the presentation by representatives of Ace Limited and that the Director of Planning and Development be thereafter instructed to submit a report on the merits of introducing a CityCard service within North Lanarkshire to a future meeting of the Committee.

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.

(NLBLF) - APPLICATION

26. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 12 September 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 October 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 a start-up proposal for a Company.

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.