

NORTH LANARKSHIRE  
COUNCIL

## REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Subject: SCOTTISH SCREEN LOCATIONS AND CURRENT FILM PRODUCTION	
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 19 November 1996	Ref: DW/LU/REP.112	

**BACKGROUND**

This report advises members of the proceedings of Scottish Screen Locations Annual General Meeting on 19 November and provides an update on North Lanarkshire's current successes in attracting the film industry. Members will recall that North Lanarkshire supports Scottish Screen Locations through the provision of funding and by representatives on their Board of Management. These include the Convener of Economic Development Committee and an Economic Development Officer.

**THE FILMING OF REGENERATION**

Members may have seen in the newspapers and on television that a £4.5m film is being made in North Lanarkshire. 'Regeneration' starring Jonathon Price and James Wilbey, and directed by Gillies Mackinnon, has been shot largely in Greengairs. This is a great boost for our strategy of attracting film makers to the area and has additionally generated a significant amount of good publicity for North Lanarkshire.

It is the intention of the Economic Development Unit to prepare a practical film production guide to ensure that local companies benefit from the influx of a cast and crew to North Lanarkshire.

**SCOTTISH SCREEN LOCATIONS - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

John Downie, Chairman of Scottish Screen Locations, advised that 1995 and 1996 have been very busy production years in Scotland in all sectors of the industry. The success of movies such as 'Braveheart' and 'Rob Roy' have meant that Scotland has a very high profile reflected in a 40% increase in the numbers of enquiries received by Scottish Screen Locations.

***Photo library and database***

Scottish Screen Locations use a photo library and database as one of their main tools for handling enquiries. Because of the increase in the numbers of location enquiries, and uncertain nature of funding, Scottish Screen Locations has been unable to free any staff to undertake the further development of the photo library, taking photographs on a needs-only basis. The database entries now stand at 3,148 and photographs at approximately 26,100. There is a need however to undertake a radical re-appraisal of the photo library and update it and add to it as required. A proposal is being prepared for the new Scottish Screen Agency. The Economic Development Unit will be undertaking an audit of the images available within North Lanarkshire Council and will be consulting with other departments to ensure we have as broad a profile as possible of images to pass on to Scottish Screen Locations.

### *Marketing and presentations*

Scottish Screen Locations attended the following events:

Sharing Stories Conference	Glasgow	November 1995
Mip Asia	Hong Kong	December 1995
Locations '96	Los Angeles	March 1996
Cannes Film Festival	Cannes, France	May 1996
Drambuie, Edinburgh Film Festival	Edinburgh	August 1996
Cineposium	Vancouver	September 1996

In April the Scottish Tourist Board invited the Director of Scottish Screen Locations (Celia Stevenson) to travel to New York to introduce the film 'Loch Ness' to an audience of travel trade writers. Subsequently the Director has been asked to join the STB/Scottish Office Film Tourism Committee to maximise the commercial impact of movies shot in Scotland. In May Scottish Screen Locations along with the other commissions in Scotland hosted a familiarisation visit from some Indian producers. This has already resulted in two Indian films being shot in Scotland with 2 more in prospect. The Indian film industry is the largest in the world.

### *Publications*

Scottish Screen Locations continues to purchase and distribute 'Film Bang' which is the industry's guide to production in Scotland and a valuable tool of the film trade.

The CD-ROM 'Scotland on Location' was published in the autumn and distribution of it continues. It is a very attractive interactive disc which carries a wealth of information about all aspects of filming in Scotland. The touch screen exhibition version was launched by the Arts Minister, Lord Lindsay in Cannes and has since proved a very valuable marketing tool.

### *Subscriptions and funding*

Local government re-organisation resulted in Scottish Screen Locations experiencing a difficult financial climate. The Secretary of State's announcement regarding the creation of Scottish Screen in April meant that some of the main core funders presumed that Scottish Screen Locations was being government funded from that time. The money which has been received has all been targeted at the primary area of providing a service to production companies but it has meant that the usual level of development work has been reduced. The Scottish Office has agreed to supply emergency funding and budgets have been lodged with them and approved. Special thanks were extended to the authorities who have given their full support.

### *Office and staffing*

In June Scottish Screen Locations moved offices from Filmhouse in Edinburgh to the SCET building in Hillhead, Glasgow. The Scottish Film Council has allowed them use of two of their rooms on a grace and favour basis until they move into the new Scottish Screen offices.

### *Training*

Scottish Screen Locations has set up a basic training scheme for local authority personnel to help them to respond to direct enquiries from production companies. This service is provided free to authorities who have subscribed fully and to others who have either not subscribed or only are given a grant, for whom the charge is £500 per day. Officers of the Economic Development Unit will be undertaking training in December.

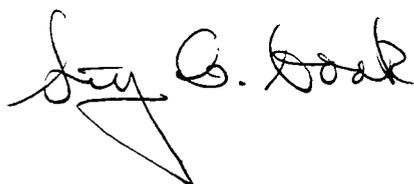
### *Future creation of the Scottish Screen Agency*

John Downie advised that there had been two meetings of the Interim Board of Scottish Screen Agency. Interviews for the post of Chief Executive were due to take place on the 21 November 1996. When the Chief Executive is in place the future structure, staff and budgets will become clearer.

The current Board of Scottish Screen Locations is very keen to ensure that local authorities still have a role in the new structure. Local authorities bring local knowledge and possibly funds to the film location equation. It is hoped that local authority and industry representatives will be able to form an advisory body for the locations arm of Scottish Screen Agency. A paper recommending this will be going to the Scottish Screen Interim Board.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That members note the contents of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley C. Cook'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Stanley C Cook  
**Director of Planning and Development**

For further information contact Gordon Smith, Head of Business Development and Property