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ECONOMIC.DEV1996M

Motherwell, 5 December 1996 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Curran, Convener; Councillors Barrie, Beekman, Brooks, Coyle, Lucas, Lunny, McElroy, G. Murray, Pentland, Robertson and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor Curran (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer, Director of Planning and Development, Head of Economic Development and Property and Head of Accounting Services.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cefferty, Connelly, Gray, H. McGuigan and Sullivan.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT)

(1) FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this level Committee held on 24 October 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 November 1996 by the Director of Finance setting out the position with regard to the spending of the Economic Development Unit of the Department of Planning and Development against the approved Budget for the period from 1 April to 13 October 1996.

Decided:that the report be noted.

(2) UNIT REVENUE ESTIMATES 1997/98 - BASE SUBMISSIONS

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 November 1996 by the Director of Finance containing the Base Submissions in respect of the Economic Development Unit's Revenue Estimates for 1997/98, being Stage One of next year's budget process.

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

BELLSHILL COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENT AREA GRANTS SCHEME

3. C There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the continued operation of the Bellshill Commercial Improvement Area Grants Scheme, a Scheme operated by the former Motherwell District Council to award grants for improvements to commercial premises in Bellshill Town Centre.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development outlined the types of grants available in terms of the Scheme and indicated that finance was available through the Urban Programme and provided for within the Council's budget to allow for continuation of the Scheme.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed administrative and management arrangements of the Scheme as set out in the Director's report be approved, including a delegation to the Director of Planning and Development, in consultation with the Convener, to approve future grants;
- (2) that the applications as set out in the Appendix to the Director's report for grant award under the Scheme be approved, subject to terms and conditions to be adjusted by the Director of Planning and Development, and
- (3) that progress reports on the operation of the Scheme be submitted to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

MEMBERSHIP - CUMBERNAULD AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

4. There was submitted a report dated 18 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking the Council's approval for the Economic Development Unit of the Department to take up membership of Cumbernauld and District Chamber of Commerce at a cost of \$125.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council agree to take up membership of Cumbernauld and District Chamber of Commerce at a cost of \$125, and
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Development, or nominee, be authorised to represent the Council on the Cumbernauld and District Chamber of Commerce.

MEMBERSHIP - COATBRIDGE TRADERS' ASSOCIATION AND KILSYTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TRADE

5. With reference to paragraphs 3 and 4 respectively of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 October 1996, there was submitted a report dated 20 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development advising that the Council had been invited to appoint Members to serve on Coatbridge Traders' Association and Kilsyth Chamber of Commerce and Trade.

Decided:

- (1) that Councillor James Brooks be nominated to serve on Coatbridge Traders' Association;
- (2) that Councillor Tom Barrie be nominated to serve on Kilsyth Chamber of Commerce and Trade, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL - CCTV REVIEW

6. C With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this

Committee held on 24 October 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development summarising the outcome of the operational review of the 4 CCTV monitoring systems currently operating within North Lanarkshire.

In that connection, the Director of Planning Development reminded the Committee that it had been previously agreed to engage the Consultant EDAW to conduct a review of the present operation of the 4 monitoring systems, principally as a result of revenue funding problems which had been experienced by several of the Trusts and to allow for the opportunity to consider options for future management and funding arrangements of the Trusts after local Government reorganisation.

He thereafter responded to various points raised by Members, commented on the Consultants brief and was heard further with regard to the proposed establishment of an Officer Working Group and "Super Trust" to oversee the organisation and funding of the 4 systems.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council undertake a commitment in principle to continue funding the CCTV systems in the 4 Town Centres of Airdrie, Coatbridge, Wishaw and Motherwell;
- (2) that the Council initiate the establishment of an Officer Working Group and "Super Trust" to oversee the organisation and funding of the 4 systems;
- (3) that the Council approve the employment of an individual by Town Centre Initiatives Limited to act as Co-ordinator for the "Super Trust" at a cost of \$30,000 per annum, increasing revenue costs on the systems to approximately \$272,000 per annum;
- (4) that the Council evolve a funding ratio to meet the revenue costs and enter into negotiations with the private sector and Strathclyde Police to secure their contribution to the funding of the 4 Trusts for 1997/98, and

(5) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE - BOARD MEETINGS

7. There was submitted a report dated 18 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that the Department had recently received from Scottish Enterprise, briefings of Board meetings which had taken place in October and November 1996, copies of which were attached to the report.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH SCREEN LOCATIONS (SSL) AND CURRENT FILM PRODUCTION

8. With reference to paragraph 28 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996, there was submitted a report dated 19 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development advising Members of the proceedings of Scottish Screen Locations (SSL) Annual General Meeting held on 19 November 1996 and providing an update on the success of North Lanarkshire in attracting the film industry to the area.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

CUMBERNAULD BUSINESS SEMINAR

9. There was submitted a report dated 19 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with details of the outcome of a one-day Seminar held at Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld on 19 November 1996 for businesses located in the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth areas, the aim of which was to inform local businesses of the range of services and assistance available from the Council, and to encourage more applications for assistance from Companies based in these areas.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

LANARKSHIRE BUSINESS AWARDS

10. There was submitted a report dated 19 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with details of the outcome of the Lanarkshire Business Awards, an event to which the Council had agreed to part sponsor together with South Lanarkshire Council, the Royal Bank of Scotland, the Herald Newspaper, Lanarkshire Development Agency and the Supercounty Civic Pride Campaign.

It was noted that the Awards had been made in October 1996 and that North Lanarkshire Companies took 80% of the Awards, including Business Personality of the Year, Lanarkshire

Sub-Contractor of the Year, Lanarkshire Quality Company of the Year and an Award for Outstanding Export Performance.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Planning and Development be instructed to write to the winners of each Award offering the Council's congratulations, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

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

11. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 12 September 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 November 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 November 1996.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP SCOTLAND (EOS) - FORMERLY SCOTTISH
CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE INTERIM REPORT

12. There was submitted a report dated 18 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development summarising the activities of Employee Ownership Scotland (EOS), formerly the Scottish Co-operative Development Committee an Organisation aimed at increasing the number of employee owned companies in Scotland, and intimating that the Organisation, previously funded by Strathclyde Regional Council, Monklands District Council and Motherwell District Council, had in 1996/97 received \$5,000 of project funding from North Lanarkshire Council.

The Director of Planning and Development was heard further in the matter and with regard to the forthcoming AGM of the organisation to which the Council as a co-funder had been invited to attend.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Planning and Development be authorised to send an appropriate officer to represent the Council at the Annual General Meeting of Employee Ownership Scotland (EOS), and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROGRAMMES 1996/97 AND 1997/98 -
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

13. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 12 September 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated December 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking the Council's approval for proposed amendments to the Council's International Trade Programmes for 1996/97 and 1997/98.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed amendments to the International Trade Programmes for 1996/97 and 1997/98 as set out in the Director's report be approved, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UPDATE

14. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 October 1996 there was submitted a report dated December 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to Electronica 1996 held in Munich, Germany from 12-15 November 1996, an international event jointly led by North Lanarkshire Council on behalf of the West of Scotland Trade Partnership.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

INDUSTRIAL TOUR OF NORTH LANARKSHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

15. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 October 1996, there was submitted a report dated 19 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the Industrial Tour of North Lanarkshire Economic Development Projects held on 6 November 1996, the main aim of which was to increase 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 had been invited.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT - OUTLINE PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 December 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development summarising the current position with regard to Project Development within the Department, including future bids for European funding, and seeking Council approval, in principle, for the preparation and submission of bids to Strathclyde European Partnership, subject to the availability of matched funding from Council resources.

Decided:that the Council approve, in principle, the submission of bids for European funding of the Projects listed in the Director's report to Strathclyde European Partnership, subject to the availability of matched funding from Council resources.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT: ENQUIRY HANDLING SYSTEM

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

Committee held on 12 September 1996, there was submitted a report dated 20 November 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 July to September 1996.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE BUSINESS LISTINGS/BUSINESS DIRECTORY

18. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this

Committee held on 12 September 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development updating Members on the proposed publication of the North Lanarkshire Business Listings/Business Directory.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development advised the Committee that the publishing contract had been awarded to Straightline Publishing Ltd, Bothwell and that the completion date for the production of the Directory was now expected to be Spring 1997, with an appropriate launch planned for that time.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

PROGRAMME OF CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT IN TOWN CENTRES

19. There was submitted a report dated 20 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of the proposed programme of Christmas entertainment in town centres within North Lanarkshire over the festive period.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

THE MARI GROUP - BEST PRACTICE PROJECT PRESENTATION

20. There was submitted a report dated 19 November 1996 by the

Director of Planning and Development with regard to a Presentation recently hosted by the Mari Group, a training Organisation based in Bellshill, on their new training initiative

Best

Practice Project the aim of which is to create a UK wide network of training excellence for the next Millenium, and which had been attended by the Convener, the Director of Planning and Development and Economic Development Unit Manager.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further in the matter and with regard to (1) an invitation which had been extended to the Council via the Convener for a small delegation to visit the Group's I.T. Vocational Training Centre in Belfast, Northern Ireland in the New Year, and (2) an invitation by the Group to provide a presentation to the Committee at a later date.

Decided:

- (1) that the invitation from the Mari Group to visit the Organisation's I.T. Vocational Training Centre in Belfast, Northern Ireland be declined;
- (2) that the invitation from the Mari Group to provide a Presentation to the Committee at a later date be accepted, and that the Director of Planning and Development be authorised to make the appropriate arrangements, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

PETERSBURN/CRAIGNEUK INITIATIVE, AIRDRIE - FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

21. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 13 June 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking Council approval for the transfer of \$15,000 to the Petersburn/ Craigneuk Initiative,

Airdrie

from monies previously committed to the Initiative by the former Monklands District Council in the last financial year.

Decided:that the Council approve the transfer of \$15,000 currently held within the Department's budget to the Board of Directors of the Petersburn/Craigneuk Initiative, Airdrie in order to assist with core running costs.

CUMMINS ENGINES ENGINEERING COMPANY - UPDATE

22. C With reference to paragraph 36 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996, there was submitted a report dated 19 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development detailing the level of assistance provided to the workforce at the Cummins Plant in Shotts by the Council following upon that Company's announcement confirming that the Plant

was to close.

In that connection, the Director of Planning and Development was heard further in the matter and, more specifically, on the series of presentations provided to the Cummins workforce during the closure period.

He further advised the Committee that the Department's involvement had assisted in the establishment of five business start-ups and resulted in the creation of seven new jobs. He referred to the desirability of ensuring that support, advice and information was focused on any North Lanarkshire Company threatened by closure and outlined proposals for the establishment of a 'Task Force' to tackle such issues.

Councillor Robertson, 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 Committee :-

- (1) agree to the formal establishment of a 'Task Force' to react to future Company closures as set out in the Director's report;
- (2) instruct the Director of Planning and Development to consult with other Council Departments and appropriate external Agencies/Organisations, with a view to membership of the 'Task Force';
- (3) otherwise continue consideration of the matter pending a further report by the Director of Planning and Development on completion of this exercise, and
- (4) otherwise note the contents of the report.

UFRA 1996 SCHWEINFURT, GERMANY - 12-20 OCTOBER 1996

23. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 12 September 1996, there was submitted a report dated December 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the Unterfranken Consumer Exhibition 1996 held in Schweinfurt, Germany from 12-20 October 1996, an international event held biennially and which had traditionally enjoyed the participation of representatives of Schweinfurt's twin town.

Decided:that the contents of the report be noted.

"TEC/CHAMBER MERGERS, BUSINESS LINKS AND LOCAL
AUTHORITIES" - BIRMINGHAM, 28 NOVEMBER 1996

24. There was submitted an invitation from the Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) to be represented at its one-day Seminar entitled "TEC/Chamber Mergers, Business Links and Local Authorities" to be held in Birmingham on 28 November 1996.

Decided:that no attendance at this Seminar be authorised.

STEEL ACTION ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING - NEWPORT 12/13 DECEMBER
1996

25. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 August 1996, there was submitted a letter dated 15 October 1996 from the Co-ordinator, Steel Action giving notice that the next Steel Action Ordinary General Meeting was to be held in Newport on 12/13 December 1996 and extending an invitation to the Council to be represented at the meeting.

Decided:that the Council agree to be represented at the meeting by the Convener, whom failing a substitute Member.

CCTV - AIRDRIE TOWN CENTRE

26. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 October 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 November 1996 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that the Department had recently received a request from the Chairman, Airdrie Development Trust, a copy of which was tabled, for a donation of a capital sum of \$12,000 to facilitate the upgrading of the CCTV cameras in Airdrie Town Centre to colour.

Decided:that the Committee agree, in principle, to make a contribution of \$12,000 to Airdrie Development Trust to facilitate the upgrading of the CCTV cameras in Airdrie Town Centre to colour, if possible from any slippage identified in this year's budget or failing which, subject to adequate budget funding provision being available in the 1997/98 Capital Programme.