

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject:  TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 28 JULY 1997	Ref: CMcA/LC/REP.252	

## 1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 Work is underway on the development of an overall strategy for town centres in North Lanarkshire. This is in line with the Department's Service Plan and the Council's draft Corporate Strategy. A mechanism for the development of the strategy has been established and a number of working groups have been set up to progress the matter. The aim of this report is to inform members of a series of projects which have been proposed and are due to be implemented in this financial year. A report seeking approval for these projects has also been submitted to the Planning & Development Committee.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 The development of a comprehensive overall strategy for the regeneration of town centres in North Lanarkshire was indicated in the Department's first Service Plan and now features in the Council's draft Corporate Strategy. There are however, a number of existing groups with an input in town centres ranging from the Departmental Policy Planning Group set up initially to service Structure Plan requirements through Town Centre Initiatives Limited to the various town centre forums/Chamber of Trade/management groups etc. It was therefore felt that there was a need for an overall co-ordinating role and for securing implementation of proposals. With this in mind two new groups have been established within the Department and will work in conjunction with the existing groups to avoid duplication. The remits of the two new groups are outlined below.

## 3 New Working Groups

### 3.1 Town Centre Strategy Steering Group

The Town Centre Strategy Steering Group is responsible for overseeing the development of a town centre strategy and is comprised of senior managers in the Planning & Development Department.

### 3.2 Town Centre Operations Group

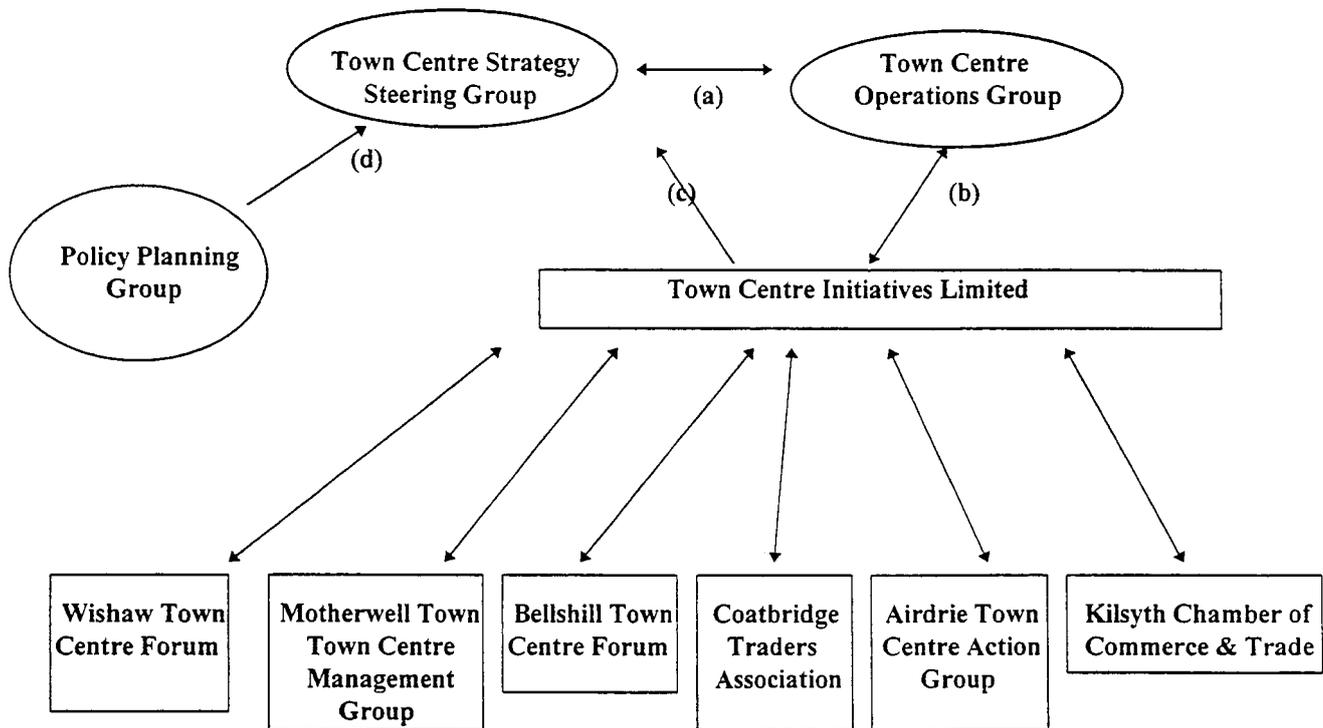
The Town Centre Operations Group is made up of officers from each of the functions within the Planning & Development Department and has specific roles regarding the implementation of strategy in the short term and in the longer term:-

**Short term (<1year):-** It is suggested that this group will look in the short term at existing projects and new projects which can be implemented. Project development and implementation would be based on the opportunities that exist and funding availability in the short term. A more proactive approach to marketing these efforts and the Council's services in town centres would be implemented. Attention will also be given to introducing a consistency of approach to service delivery by Planning & Development Divisions across North Lanarkshire.

**Longer term (<5 years):-** In the longer term the Operations Group would develop action plans as part of the town centre strategy.

#### 4 Reporting Procedures

- 4.1 All of the other town centre groups would in some way link with the Strategy Steering Group and/or the Operations Group shown in the diagram below.



#### 4.2 Links

- a.
  - i) Operations Group would seek approval of Strategy Steering Group prior to implementation.
  - ii) Operations Group would develop Action Plans based on strategy development.
  - iii) Information and research requirements would flow 2-way between groups.
- b.
  - i) Town Centre Initiatives Ltd (town centre management company) would implement appropriate elements of Action Plans.
  - ii) Town Centre Initiatives Ltd would feed appropriate projects to Operations Group.
- c.
  - i) Town Centre Initiatives would feed priorities identified by various forums to Strategy Steering Group.
- d.
  - i) A retail policy planning group has been established to contribute to the development of the structure plan.
  - ii) The Policy Planning Group would feed through research findings to Strategy Group.

#### 5 Progress to date

- 5.1 Resources of up to £110,000 have been identified within the current capital programme of the Planning & Development Department as potentially available for town centre projects.
- 5.2 At a special meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 13 January 1997, the Council agreed to provide core funding of £100,000 to the Workwise Initiative. From this £100,000 it has been agreed that £25,000 would be for town centre projects, as part of an intermediate labour market initiative. £6,000 of this funding, has already been allocated for the clean-up of the Kilsyth burn, which runs through the town centre.