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ECONOMIC.DEV1998M

Motherwell, 4 March 1998 at 3 pm.

A Meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Curran, Convener; Councillor Connelly, Vice-Convener;
Councillors
Beekman, A. Burns, E. Burns, Coyle, Lucas, Lunny, G. Murray, Nolan,
Robertson and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor Curran (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer, Head of Economic Development and
Property, Policy Planning Manager and Accountant.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cefferty, Craigie, McLaughlin, Macleod and Pentland.

GARTCOSH REGENERATION

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of
this
Committee held on 22 January 1998, the Head of Economic
Development and Property was heard with regard to ongoing
developments relative to the regeneration of the former British
Steelworks site at Gartcosh.

In that connection, he made reference to (1) the ongoing Public
Inquiry relative to the development proposals by Powergen, and

(2)
the proposals to upgrade the road network by the construction of
a link road to the M73 for which planning permission had now
been sought.

Decided:that the position be noted.

RAVENSCRAIG REGENERATION

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of
this
Committee held on 22 January 1998, the Head of Economic
Development and Property was heard with regard to ongoing
developments relative to the regeneration of the former British
Steelworks site at Ravenscraig.

In that connection, he made reference to (1) the Public
Consultation Exercise on the regeneration of the Ravenscraig

site,

the outcome of which had yet to be realised, and (2) advised that a report would be submitted to both the Planning and Development and Economic Development Committees so soon as the Department was in a position so to do.

Decided:that the position be noted.

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

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 February 1998 by the Director of Finance setting out the position with regard to the spending levels of the Economic Development Unit of the Department of Planning and Development for the period from 1 April 1997 to 1 February 1998 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

Decided:that the report be noted.

STRATHCLYDE POLICE - GRANT SUPPORT FOR CCTV SYSTEMS 1998/99

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of the receipt by the Chief Executive of a letter dated 3 February 1998 from the Chief Constable, Strathclyde Police intimating (1) that Strathclyde

Joint Police Board had recently approved the allocation of monies from the Police Revenue Budget to assist local authorities by means of grant support for CCTV Systems; (2) that the principal guiding criteria for applications would be their contribution to crime prevention and community safety, and (3) that applications were to be lodged with the Chief Constable no later than Friday, 6 March 1998.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee authorise the Director of Planning and Development, in liaison with North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited, to co-ordinate and submit a bid to Strathclyde Joint Police Board for funding for closed circuit television systems within North Lanarkshire;
- (2) that it be noted that the closing date for bids had been extended until Friday, 13 March 1998, and
- (3) that the Director of Planning and Development submit details of the Council's bid, when finalised, to the next meeting of the Committee.

LAUNCH OF NORTH LANARKSHIRE CCTV LIMITED

5. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 October 1997, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of the launch of North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited which had taken place in the Civic Centre, Motherwell on Monday, 2 February 1998 with Henry McLeish, MP, Minister of State - Home Affairs and Devolution in attendance.

Decided:that the report be noted.

The Convener being of the opinion that the following item of business was urgent by virtue of the need to give timeous consideration to appointing three Members and an Officer to the Board of Directors of North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited authorised its consideration.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE CCTV LIMITED - APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

6. C With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 October 1997, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 March 1998 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that in terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited the Council were entitled in terms of Article 39(a) of the Company to appoint three elected Members as members on the Board of Directors whose Wards fell within the former local government areas of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council and Strathclyde Electoral Division 46 (Chryston); Motherwell District Council and Monklands District Council; (2) that the Council was also entitled to appoint an Officer as a member to the Board of Directors, and (3) seeking nominations for the positions.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the appointment of Councillors J. Martin, Brooks and Gilchrist as the Council's Member representatives on the Board of Directors of North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited, and
- (2) that the appointment of Mrs. Maureen McConachie, Economic Development Manager, Department of Planning and Development as the Council's Officer representative to the Board of Directors of North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited be likewise approved.

NATIONAL STEEL TRAINING INITIATIVE - POST TRAINING PROGRAMME - PROPOSED BID FOR FUNDING

7. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 October 1997, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking approval of the joint submission by the

Council and the Lanarkshire Development Agency of a bid for funding to both the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and RESIDER II for the development of an Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) training programme in childcare at a total estimated cost of \$200,000, subject to the identification of Council resources to the order of \$25,000 to be met from within existing budgets.

Decided:that the Committee approve the joint submission, in conjunction with the Lanarkshire Development Agency, of a bid for funding to both the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and RESIDER II for the development of an Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) training programme in childcare at a total estimated cost of \$200,000, subject to the identification of Council resources to the order of \$25,000 to be met from within existing budgets.

SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE - BOARD MEETING

8. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 November 1997, there was submitted a Note of a meeting of the Scottish Enterprise Board which had taken place on 15 January 1998.

Decided:that the position be noted.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UPDATE

(1) WEST OF SCOTLAND TRADE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

9. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 January 1998, there was submitted a report dated March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the participation by North Lanarkshire companies in the West of Scotland Trade Partnership Programme during the third quarter of the financial year 1997/98 and intimating that during this period 9 North Lanarkshire companies had received support.

Decided:that the report be noted.

(2) MEDICA 1997, DUSSELDORF, GERMANY - 18-22 NOVEMBER 1997

10. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 January 1998, there was submitted a report dated March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development giving details of an International Trade event entitled "MEDICA 1997" held in Dusseldorf, Germany, from 18-22

November 1997 attended by 5 companies from North Lanarkshire whose participation had been supported by the Council.

Decided:that the report be noted.

(3) ISM 1998, COLOGNE, GERMANY - 1-5 FEBRUARY 1998

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

Committee held on 22 January 1998, there was submitted a report dated March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development giving details of an International Trade event entitled

"ISM 1998" held in Cologne, Germany, from 1-5 February 1998 attended by 1 company from North Lanarkshire whose participation had been supported by the Council.

Decided:that the report be noted.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SHOTTS TOWN CENTRE FORUM

12. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of the North Lanarkshire Council held on 22 May 1997, there was submitted a report dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of progress in the formation and establishment of a Town Centre Forum in Shotts following the public meeting held on 5 February 1998 to ascertain the demand for such a Forum.

Decided:that the report be noted.

WORLD OF INFORMATION IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE (WINOL) -
STUDY VISIT TO SCOTLAND BY TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERS,
VICHY DEVELOPPEMENT

13. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the joint meeting of the Policy and Resources and Economic Development Committees held on 28 October 1997, there was submitted a report dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development advising (1) of a study visit to Scotland by the Council's Transnational Partner, Vichy Developpement later this month; (2) of their request to meet with representatives of the Council to discuss the feasibility study on the World of

Information

in North Lanarkshire (WINOL), and (3) of the arrangements for the meeting between Officers of the Council and the Vichy representatives.

Decided:that the report be noted.

DOORS OPEN DAY INITIATIVE 1998

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) advising of the success of the Doors Open Day Initiative 1997; (2) seeking approval for the Department's Economic Development Unit's participation in the 1998 Initiative, and (3) seeking authority to approach local businesses with a view to local company participation in the 1998 Initiative.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the participation of the Department's Economic Development Unit in the Doors Open Day Initiative 1998 and agree that the Director of Planning and Development approach local businesses with a view to their participation in the Initiative;
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Development liaise with the Director of Leisure Services in order to maximise interest in the 1998 Initiative, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

NEW DEAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) advising of the Council's proposed management of the Environmental Task Force option under the Government's New Deal for Young People; (2) commenting upon the four main options available to the Council for dealing with the Initiative, and (3) intimating that Officers had yet to make formal recommendations in relation to external funding possibilities, although these issues required to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Decided: that the report be noted meantime.

PROPERTY EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) seeking approval, in principle, to the Council's participation in a proposed bid to Scottish Enterprise for a pilot project for North Lanarkshire for the establishment of a Property Employment Support Programme in partnership with the Lanarkshire Development Agency and Employment Services, and (2) intimating that no additional resource implications would arise as a consequence of the Council's participation in the Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve, in principle, the Council's participation in the proposed bid to Scottish Enterprise for a pilot project for North Lanarkshire for the establishment

of a Property Employment Support Programme in partnership with the Lanarkshire Development Agency and Employment Services, and

- (2) that it be noted that no additional resource implications would arise as a consequence of the Council's participation in the Programme.

CRAIGNEUK OUTREACH STAFF - TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

17. With reference to paragraph 46 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 November 1997, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking approval to further extend the temporary employment contracts of the staff based at the Craigneuk Outreach Office until June 1998, funded from resources being available via the Employment Grants Scheme (EGS) for the purpose of continuing to deliver a range of services in respect of training and employment, including the counselling and monitoring of unemployed people recently recruited through the Employment Grants Scheme and to continue to assist in the development of the EGS programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve, subject to (2) below, the extension of the Craigneuk Outreach staff's temporary employment contracts until June 1998, on the basis of resources being available via the Employment Grants Scheme for the purpose of continuing to deliver a range of services in respect of training and employment, including the counselling and monitoring of unemployed people recently recruited through the Employment Grants Scheme and to continue to assist in the development of the EGS programme, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for further consideration.

BUSINESS/TRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES - QUARTERLY REPORTS

(1) BOOST FOR BUSINESS START-UP

18. With reference to paragraph 26 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 November 1997, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 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 October to 31 December 1997.

Decided:that the report be noted.

(2) EMPLOYMENT GRANTS SCHEME

19. With reference to paragraph 27 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 November 1997, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 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 October to 31 December 1997.

Decided: that the report be noted.

BUSINESS/TRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES - BOOST FOR
BUSINESS START-UP - PROPOSED PROGRAMME APRIL 1998 TO
MARCH 2000

20. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development with regard to the development and future delivery of the Boost for Business Start-

Up

Scheme from April 1998 to March 2000 (1) proposing an initial budget contribution by the Council of \$50,390 for the Scheme during the financial year 1998/99 subject to adequate budget funding provision; (2) seeking homologation of the action taken

by

the Director of Planning and Development in submitting an application for ERDF Funding in order to continue the Programme from April 1998 to March 2000, and (3) recommending other minor amendments to the administrative arrangements/operational guidelines to take account of a previous Committee decision to include the former Local Enterprise Action Fund (LEAF) Project's budget within the Boost for Business Start-Up Budget.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve, subject to adequate budget funding provision, a Council contribution of \$50,390 on the Scheme for the financial year 1998/99;
- (2) that the action taken by the Director of Planning and Development in submitting an application for ERDF Funding to continue the Programme from April 1998 to March 2000, be homologated;
- (3) that the proposed administrative arrangements/operational guidelines of the Scheme as set out in the report be approved, and
- (4) that progress reports on the operation of the Scheme continue to be submitted to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

PROPOSED LANARKSHIRE TECHNOLOGY ADVICE CENTRE

21. C With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this

Committee held on 22 January 1998, there was submitted a

report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) advising of the progress in the preparation for the establishment of a Lanarkshire Technology Advice Centre, and (2) seeking nominations from the Council to the Board of Directors.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the appointment of the Convener of the Economic Development Committee, Councillor Curran, as a Director on the Board of Directors for Lanarkshire Technology Advice Centre.
- (2) that it be delegated to the Director of Planning and Development to appoint a Director to the Lanarkshire Technology Advice Centre, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

COMPANY/FACTORY CLOSURES

(1) UPDATE

22. With reference to paragraph 30 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 January 1998, there was submitted a report dated 5 March 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development providing an update on (1) the current position with regard to Company/Factory closures affecting three North Lanarkshire companies, and (2) on the work which had been undertaken by the Council in relation to these closures.

Decided:that the report be noted.

(2) McKECHNIE PLASTIC COMPONENTS, CUMBERNAULD

23. Arising from consideration of the immediately preceding item, the Convener made reference to the fifty job losses announced earlier in the day at McKechnie Plastic Components, Cumbernauld as part of a company rationalisation programme and proposed that consideration be given to designating the job losses as a large scale redundancy situation.

Decided:that the Committee designate the fifty job losses at McKechnie Plastic Components, Cumbernauld as a large scale redundancy, thereby reducing the eligibility period for access to assistance.

LANARKSHIRE TOURISM STRATEGY

24. With reference to paragraph 28 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 January 1997, there was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 5 March 1998 by the Directors of Planning and Development and Leisure Services providing (1) details on the responses from consultees to the draft Lanarkshire

Tourism Strategy Document which will guide the industry until the year 2001, and (2) a copy of the finalised Strategy Document.

Decided:that the joint report and Strategy Document be noted.