

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: FILM LIAISON: 'GREGORY'S TWO GIRLS'
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 23 APRIL 1998	Ref: DW/REP 389	

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks to update members on the Council's screen industry initiative and advise on the specific work that is being undertaken in association with the location filming of 'Gregory's Two Girls'.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members will recall that, since its inception, the Planning and Development Department has been liaising closely with Scottish Screen to ensure that North Lanarkshire is seen by the film and television industry as a 'film-friendly' location. Location shooting by the industry has the potential to make a significant contribution to the local economy, as well as raising the profile of an area.
- 2.2 Since January 1998, the Economic Development and Property Division has been working closely with the location manager and production team on Bill Forsyth's follow up to his hugely successful 1980 film, 'Gregory's Girl'. Titled 'Gregory's Two Girls, the new film is also set in Scotland, with Cumbernauld playing a starring role, as it did in the original feature. 'Gregory's Girl' put Cumbernauld firmly on the map and it is anticipated that this production will similarly provide a platform to showcase the developments which have taken place in the area in the intervening years.
- 2.3 The film now has its funding confirmed and location filming has been scheduled for various dates between mid May and mid June.
- 2.4 Abronhill School will be used extensively in the film, with the majority of the filming taking place over the summer holidays. In addition, parts of the town centre will also feature.
- 2.5 The Council's Film Liaison Officer is currently in discussion with officers in the education and housing departments regarding the location shooting in order to ensure that the project goes forward smoothly, with as little disruption to local people as possible.
- 2.6 The Film Liaison Officer is currently preparing a production handbook for the film company in order to encourage them to source local suppliers whilst on location. It is hoped that it will be possible to evaluate the total production spend at the end of the shooting.
- 2.7 Bill Forsyth's other productions, and discussions with the production team, suggest that the film will present Cumbernauld in a positive light. Officers are in discussion with the unit publicist and the Council's Press and Public Relations Manager to ensure that North Lanarkshire Council receives the maximum positive ongoing publicity from the film. An evaluation of the amount of publicity ensuing from the film across the range of media (print, television, radio etc) will be made at the appropriate time.

3 Conclusions

3.1 The making of 'Gregory's Two Girls' offers North Lanarkshire Council the opportunity to prove that it truly is a 'film-friendly' location. It will also demonstrate the strength of a strong corporate approach to such an initiative. This approach is working well in the pre-production phase, and it is anticipated that this collaborative approach will pay dividends when the film is on location, and subsequently released.

4 Recommendations

4.1 That members note the contents of this report.



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Director of Planning and Development

27 March 1998

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