

Motherwell, 23 April 1998 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Curran, Convener; Councillor Connelly, Vice-Convener; Councillors Beekman, Brooks, Cefferty, Coyle, Gray, Lucas, Macleod and G. Murray.

CHAIR

Councillor Curran (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer, Planning Manager (Southern Division), Economic Development Unit Manager, Policy Planning Manager and Head of Accounting Services.

APOLOGIES

Councillors A. Burns, E. Burns, Craigie, Lunny, McCabe, H. McGuigan, McLaughlin, Pentland, Robertson and Shaw.

GARTCOSH REGENERATION

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 March 1998, the Planning Manager (Southern Division) was heard with regard to ongoing developments relative to the regeneration of the former British Steelworks site at Gartcosh.

In that connection, he (1) made reference to (a) the Masterplan currently being developed for the site, and (b) ongoing consultations with Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive in regard to the proposals to upgrade the road network by the construction of a link road to the M73, and (2) confirmed that the application for planning consent in connection with same had now been lodged with the Planning and Development Department.

Decided: that the position be noted.

RAVENS CRAIG REGENERATION

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 March 1998, the Planning Manager (Southern Division) was heard with regard to ongoing developments relative to the regeneration of the former British Steelworks site at Ravenscraig.

In that connection, he (1) made reference to (a) the Masterplan currently being developed for the site, and (b) ongoing consultations between the Lanarkshire Development Agency and potential developers with regard to possible Joint Ventures, and (2) confirmed that a report would be submitted to both the Planning and Development and Economic Development Committees on the Council's response to the Masterplan within the next 2 months.

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 30 March 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 March 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. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 March 1998, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating that in terms of the authority previously granted, he had submitted the Council's bid for grant support for closed circuit television systems within North Lanarkshire to Strathclyde Joint Police Board in the sum of £158,000 (Revenue) plus £91,000 (Capital), all as detailed in the bid document which formed an Appendix to his report.

In that connection, the Economic Development Unit Manager advised the Committee (1) that verbal notification had been received that the Council had been unsuccessful in its bid for Capital funding during 1998/99; (2) that the Council would be awarded £89,200 Revenue funding during 1998/99; (3) that, as a result of this, it was intended to hold a meeting with representatives of the Lanarkshire Development Agency to discuss funding for closed circuit television systems within North Lanarkshire, and (4) that it was also the Council's intention to simultaneously prepare a Business Plan for the development and funding of closed circuit television systems in North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the terms of the Council's bid to Strathclyde Joint Police Board for funding for closed circuit television systems within North Lanarkshire during 1998/99;
- (2) that it be noted that no Capital funding was to be awarded for the financial year 1998/99;
- (3) that it be noted that £89,200 Revenue funding had been awarded for the financial year 1998/99;
- (4) that a meeting be held with representatives of the Lanarkshire Development Agency to discuss funding for closed circuit television systems within North Lanarkshire, and
- (5) that the Council's intention to simultaneously prepare a Business Plan for the development and funding of closed circuit television systems in North Lanarkshire be noted.

ARMS CONVERSION PROJECT - SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

5. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 April 1997, there was submitted a report dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development intimating (1) that the Council had recently received a sponsorship request from the Arms Conversion Project, an organisation which prior to reorganisation of local government had been supported by the former Monklands and Motherwell District Councils and Strathclyde Regional Council, and (2) that the Council had previously agreed to sponsor the organisation during the financial years 1996/97 and 1997/98 at a cost of £500 per annum.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the Council's continued membership of the Arms Conversion Project during the financial year 1998/99 at a cost of £500, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

FILM LIAISON - "GREGORY'S TWO GIRLS"

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) intimating (a) that the Department had been working closely with the Location Manager and Production Team on Bill Forsyth's follow-up to the successful 1980 Film, "Gregory's Girl", entitled "Gregory's Two Girls"; (b) that the new Film would also be set in Scotland, with Cumbernauld playing a central role, as it did in the original film; (3) that Abrohill Primary School would be used extensively in the Film, with the majority of filming taking place over the summer holidays, and (2) expressing the hope that the Initiative would promote the Council's area as a "Film-Friendly" location.

Decided: that the report be noted.

BUSINESS FOCUS - EVALUATION

7. With reference to paragraph 24 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 November 1997, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of the results of a recent evaluation undertaken of the Council's Business Focus Newsletter.

Decided: that the report be noted.

LANARKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY - BUDGET ALLOCATION AND REORGANISATION

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) advising of the budget allocation recently awarded by Scottish Enterprise to the Lanarkshire Development Agency, and (2) providing an update for Members of the recent reorganisation of functions and staff within the Agency.

Decided: that the report be noted.

EMPLOYMENT GRANTS SCHEME

(1) EVALUATION OF PILOT COUNSELLING AND JOB MENTORING SCHEME IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

9. With reference to paragraph 36 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 November 1997, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development advising (1) of the results of a recent evaluation of the Council's Pilot Counselling and Job Mentoring Scheme to those recipients of Employment Grants who would be likely to benefit most from such support, conducted by the Craigneuk Outreach Office (now designated the North Lanarkshire Training and Resource Unit - Motherwell Area) between November 1997 and March 1998 and (2) recommending that the Scheme be continued in 1998.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the evaluation of the Pilot Counselling and Job Mentoring Scheme between November 1997 and March 1998;
- (2) that continuation of the Project during 1998 be approved, and
- (3) that the continued utilisation of the services of the former Craigneuk Outreach (now designated the North Lanarkshire Training and Resource Unit - Motherwell Area) as an appropriate agent for the Project given the nature of the Project's aims and objectives as set out in the report, be likewise approved.

(2) EVALUATION OF SCHEME

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of the results of a recent evaluation of the Council's Employment Grants Scheme undertaken by Cambridge Policy Consultants on behalf of the 12 Councils in the West of Scotland operating the Scheme and advising (1) the evaluation had concentrated on the day to day operation of the Scheme; (2) early feedback appeared to indicate that Employers were generally happy with the Scheme, and (3) Officers would now consider the findings of the evaluation and bring a further report to the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the outcome of the evaluation of the Employment Grants Scheme carried out by Cambridge Policy Consultants on behalf of the 12 Councils in the West of Scotland operating the Scheme, and
- (2) that the appropriate Officers consider the implications of the evaluation and that any proposed amendments to the Scheme arising therefrom be subject to a further report to the Committee.

BIDS FOR RESIDER II FUNDING - VARIOUS PROJECTS

11. With reference to paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 January 1998, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) advising of the RESIDER II Committee's recent decisions to approve the 4 bids submitted for Projects at respectively (a) Lady Anne Training Centre and Managed Workspace Project, Airdrie; (b) Craigneuk Outreach Office - Integrated Support Project; (c) Community Economic Regeneration Project, and (d) Training and Employment Access Support Project, subject to the request for further information and/or confirmation of details as outlined in the report being addressed; (2) intimating that due to financial constraints within the Department's budget at present, it would not be possible to proceed with all 4 Projects; (3) indicating that, consequently, it was recommended that the Council decline the offer of award of funding for the Training and Employment Access Support Project, and (4) advising that an approach had been made to the Lanarkshire Development Agency for an additional £100,000 towards the costs of the Lady Anne Training Centre and Managed Workspace Project, Airdrie in respect of which Coatbridge College had expressed an interest in entering into a partnership arrangement with the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the acceptance of funding awards by the RESIDER II Committee for 3 of the 4 bids submitted for the following Projects, subject to the further information and/or confirmation of all necessary details:-

- (a) Lady Anne Training Centre and Managed Workspace Project, Airdrie;
 - (b) Craigneuk Outreach Office - Integrated Support Project;
 - (c) Community Economic Regeneration Project;
- (2) that the offer of award of funding for the Training and Employment Access Support Project be declined, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME 1997/98

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development providing an evaluation of the Marketing Assistance Programme for 1997/98 during which a total of 13 participants from 9 Companies had successfully completed the training programme.

Decided: that the report be noted.

KILSYTH TOWN CENTRE FORUM - PROGRESS REPORT

13. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 November 1997, there was submitted a report dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of progress in the formation and establishment of a Town Centre Forum in Kilsyth following the public meeting held to confirm that the former Kilsyth Chamber of Commerce and Trade had agreed to reform as Kilsyth Town Centre Forum.

Decided: that the report be noted.

PLAINS COUNTRYSIDE PARK - LOTTERY FUNDING

14. There was submitted a report dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of the decision of the National Lottery Charities Board to award Plains Countryside Park a grant totalling £126,776 over the next three years, which will comprise of £43,350 in the first year, £40,833 in the second year and £42,500.93 in the third year to fund the salary of one park warden, running costs, education and promotional materials, training, consultancy costs and equipment for the Park.

Decided: that the report be noted.

REVIEW OF SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT IN LANARKSHIRE - FINAL REPORT

15. With reference to paragraph 41 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 November 1997, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) advising of the final report on the Review of Small Business Support in Lanarkshire undertaken by Segal Quince Wicksteed Limited, Economic Development Consultants, engaged by North and South Lanarkshire Councils and the Lanarkshire Development Agency; (2) outlining the progress in implementation and the mechanism to be used for Enterprise Trust Funding, and (3) seeking approval of the level of financial support to Enterprise Trusts in North Lanarkshire for Project funding in the financial year 1998/99.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the following level of financial support to Enterprise Trusts for Project funding in 1998/99 up to a maximum of viz:-
 - (a) Motherwell Enterprise Development Company - £32,006;
 - (b) Monklands Enterprise Development Company - £16,560;
 - (c) Cumbernauld Area Enterprise - £20,676, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

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

16. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 March 1998, there was submitted a report dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development advising of the outcome of the meeting between Council officials and representatives of Vichy Developpement during their recent study visit to Scotland.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree to continue to explore future partnership opportunities with Vichy Developpement, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

TRAINING RESOURCE BANK 1997/98

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) providing an evaluation of the grants allocated through the Training Resource Bank during the 1997/98 financial year; (2) advising that the Project had recently been mainlined by the Council for implementation across North Lanarkshire; (3) confirming that the Summerlee Training Resource Unit would continue to manage the Project, and (4) highlighting that in future recommendations for funding would be submitted to the Economic Development Committee for approval.

Decided: that the report be noted.

MOTHERWELL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (MEDCO) - REQUEST FOR MATCH FUNDING

18. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee held on 4 March 1998, wherein that Sub-Committee had (1) agreed to provide the sum of £5,000 as a 50% contribution to match funding, and (2) referred a report dated 26 February 1998 by the Chief Executive to this Committee for the consideration of an allocation of £5,000 from the Department of Planning and Development (Economic Development Unit) budget towards the match funding from the Motherwell Enterprise Development Company (MEDCO) in support of an ESF RECHAR II bid for a training project in Shotts, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development on the background to the Project and recommending that the Project be supported subject to appropriate implementation and management procedures being put in place.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the allocation of £5,000 from the Department of Planning and Development (Economic Development Unit) budget as part of a request for match funding from the Motherwell Enterprise Development Company (MEDCO) towards their successful ESF RECHAR II bid for a training project in Shotts, subject to appropriate implementation and management procedures being put in place, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION OF SCOTLAND - SCOTTISH FARMING IN CRISIS

19. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) advising of the receipt of a letter dated 5 February 1998 from the Lanark Area President, National Farmers' Union of Scotland together with a copy of a briefing paper prepared by the Union entitled "Scottish Farming in Crisis"; (2) confirming that the Department had made an initial response to the Lanark Area President commenting upon the type of assistance the Planning and Development Department might be able to provide in terms of Business Development Programmes, and (3) intimating that it was proposed to discuss the issue further with South Lanarkshire Council and the Lanarkshire Development Agency in order that a co-ordinated response could be agreed.

Decided: that the report and action detailed therein be noted meantime.

BUSINESS/TRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES - QUARTERLY REPORTS

(1) MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRAINING GRANTS SCHEME

20. With reference to paragraph 27 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 January 1998, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of applications received and approved under the Council's Management and Technology Training Grants Scheme during the quarter from 1 January to 31 March 1998.

Decided: that the report be noted.

(2) TRAINING ASSISTANCE GRANTS SCHEME

21. With reference to paragraph 28 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 January 1998, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development providing details of applications received and approved under the Council's Training Assistance Grants Scheme during the quarter from 1 January to 31 March 1998.

Decided: that the report be noted.

The Convener being of the opinion that the following item of business was relevant, competent and urgent, by virtue of the need to give timeous consideration to an invitation to host the next Ordinary General Meeting of Steel Action on Tuesday, 9 June 1998 authorised its consideration and exercised his discretion to vary the Order of Business in order to consider the item at this point in the Agenda.

STEEL ACTION ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY, 9 JUNE 1998

22. There was submitted a report (tabled and docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) advising of the outcome of the Steel Action Ordinary General Meeting held in March 1998 in Llanelli the theme of which had been the Welsh Regional launch of "Steeled for Success"; (2) intimating that the next Ordinary General Meeting due to be held on Tuesday, 9 June 1998 would hold a similar theme for the Scottish Regional launch of "Steeled for Success", and (3) seeking agreement that the Council host the meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee agree that the Council host the next Ordinary General Meeting of Steel Action on Tuesday, 9 June 1998, subject to the format of the meeting being agreed between the Convener, the Director of Planning and Development and the Co-ordinator of Steel Action, and
- (2) to otherwise refer the matter to the Civic Functions Group for the provision of appropriate hospitality.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL BUSINESS LOANS FUND (NLBLF) - APPLICATION 3/98

23. With reference to paragraph 33 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 January 1998, there was submitted a report dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development seeking approval of a loan application by Tinto Laser Services Limited, Bellshill for £30,000 in terms of the North Lanarkshire Council Business Loans Fund Scheme in conjunction with the West of Scotland Loans Fund as part of a request for an expansion project for a Company.

Decided: that the loan application be approved, subject to the Company meeting the necessary conditions required by the Head of Economic Development and Property and the Head of Legal Services.