

Motherwell, 27 January 2000 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Brooks, Convener; Councillor Curran, Vice-Convener; Councillors Connelly, Donnelly, Homer, Jones, Love, Lyle, H. McGuigan, Morgan, Selfridge and Valentine.

CHAIR

Councillor Brooks (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer; Director of Planning and Environment, Economic Development Manager, Senior Marketing and Policy Officer and Accountant.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Burns, McCabe, McElroy, Pentland and Shaw.

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

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 November 1999, there was submitted a report dated 6 January 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) setting out the position with regard to spending levels by the Economic Development Unit within the Department of Planning and Environment for the period from 1 April to 5 December 1999; (2) providing an explanation of the more significant variances, and (3) presenting a projected outturn for the financial year.

Decided: that the report be noted.

COPYRIGHT AND COMMERCIALISING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT PUBLICATIONS

2. There was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 22 December 1999 by the Directors of Planning and Environment and Social Work (1) containing details of publications produced by the Economic Development Unit; (2) intimating (a) that the Head of Legal Services had advised that, as none of these publications was protected by Copyright, there was no legal barrier to prevent their contents from being copied by others, and (b) that the Redundancy Support Pack, produced jointly in 1998 by the former Director of Planning and Development and the Director of Social Work, had created interest among other local authorities who wished to produce a similar publication in respect of their own geographical areas, and (3) proposing (a) that, subject to the conditions detailed within the report, the Redundancy Support Pack be marketed to other local authorities at a cost to be agreed in line with market demand; (b) that the Economic Development Unit provide those local authorities which buy into the Redundancy Support Service with regular update bulletins, and (c) that appropriate steps be taken to ensure that the publications produced by the Economic Development Unit are protected by Copyright.

Decided:

- (1) that appropriate steps be taken by the Director of Planning and Environment and the Head of Legal Services to ensure that the publications of the Economic Development Unit are protected by Copyright;
- (2) that the publication entitled “Redundancy Support Pack” be marketed to other local authorities at a cost to be determined in line with market demand, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

LANARKSHIRE ON-LINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY: UPDATE

3. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 26 November 1998, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 December 1999 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding the Committee that both a published and digital version of the North Lanarkshire Business Directory had been produced to provide local company information in an accessible format to a wide audience of users both in the United Kingdom and overseas; (2) advising (a) that, subsequently, the Council, in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council and the Lanarkshire Development Agency, had developed the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory which had been produced by HMG Internet Services Limited, Hamilton, and (b) that the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory provided information on over 5,000 Lanarkshire companies in all main industrial sectors, excluding retail and agriculture; (3) summarising (a) the progress made, to date, in the development of the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory, and (b) the information and features which can be accessed from the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory Website; (4) detailing the profile of the Lanarkshire On-Line Directory users; (5) intimating (a) that the initial development costs of £7,000 for the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory had been absorbed by South Lanarkshire Council as part of its development of its own Economic Development Website; (b) that the total cost to this Council of developing the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory was £2,712.50 which could be met from within the Department of Planning and Environment's existing budgets; (c) that the Lanarkshire Development Agency had also contributed £2,712.50 towards the cost of the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory; (d) that the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory would require to be updated in early 2000 with the business listings data researched and collected for production of the new North Lanarkshire 2000 Business Directory, and (e) that the cost to the Council of converting and uploading new data onto the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory Website was approximately £45 per upload, and (6) pointing out that to ensure the On-Line Directory accurately reflected the requirements of the users, it may be necessary to expand the range of facilities offered by the Website.

Decided:

- (1) that the costs of development of the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory from within the Department of Planning and Environment's existing budgets be approved;
- (2) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee providing an update on the development of the Lanarkshire On-Line Business Directory, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT - SERVICE REVIEW

4. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 October 1999, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 January 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising that a Review of the services provided by the Economic Development Unit
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had been initiated in early 1999 and had been carried out in line with the Best Value Service Review Guidelines produced by the Chief Executive; (2) enclosing, as an Appendix, a Service Review report containing details of (a) the services provided by the Economic Development Unit; (b) those areas within the Economic Development Unit which had been examined as part of the Service Review; (c) the techniques which had been applied during the Service Review; (d) the findings of the Service Review, and (e) an Improvement Plan for the Economic Development Unit, and (3) intimating that it was intended that all services provided by the Economic Development Unit would be reviewed by December 2001.

Decided:

- (1) that the report and the accompanying Service Review report in respect of the operation and services provided by Economic Development Unit be noted, and
- (2) that the findings and Improvement Plan, as detailed in the Service Review report, be approved.

LANARKSHIRE KEY FUND

5. With reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of the North Lanarkshire Council held on 16 December 1999, there was submitted a report dated 27 January 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising (a) that the Registrar of Companies for Scotland had certified that, on 24 December 1999, Lanarkshire Key Fund Limited had been incorporated under the Companies Act 1985; (b) that the appointment of McDaid and Partners, Chartered Accounts as Company Secretary would be recommended for approval by the Board of Directors of Lanarkshire Key Fund Limited; (c) that funding received for the Key Fund Project from all public sector funding partners, North and South Lanarkshire Councils and the Lanarkshire Development Agency, had been placed in a temporary holding account facilitated by the Director of Finance and subsequently transferred to a high interest bearing account; (d) that the funds in this account would thereafter be transferred to the Company's bank account once it had been opened and signatories to same had been established; (2) enclosing, as an Appendix (tabled and docketed), the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Lanarkshire Key Fund Limited, and (3) outlining proposals for the operation of Lanarkshire Key Fund Limited.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken by the Director of Planning and Environment and the Director of Finance to establish Lanarkshire Key Fund Limited be homologated, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

(1) UPDATE - SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS 1999/2000

6. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 October 1999, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 December 1999 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) summarising the assistance afforded to companies in North Lanarkshire through the West of Scotland Partnership International Trade Programme for the second and third quarters of 1999/2000, and (2) enclosing, as an Appendix, a list of companies within North Lanarkshire which had received support to participate in International Trade events during that period.

Decided: that the report be noted.

(2) PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR 2000/2001

7. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 October 1999, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 January 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding Members (a) that the Council, as an active participant in the West of Scotland Trade Partnership, had a key role in organising and managing a number of trade events on behalf of the Partnership, and (b) that the Council also played an active part in international events organised by the Lanarkshire Export Partnership; (2) advising (a) that the West of Scotland Trade Partnership had received confirmation of extended funding from the European Regional Development Fund for its International Trade Programme; (b) that the Lanarkshire Export Partnership intended to find a number of international events which would target solely Lanarkshire companies; (c) that such events, whilst still to be identified, would be jointly funded by North and South Lanarkshire Councils and the Lanarkshire Development Agency, and (d) that, for the reasons detailed therein, it was necessary to plan, in advance, the various International Trade Missions and Exhibitions in which the Council would participate, and (3) enclosing, as an Appendix, a proposed Programme detailing International Trade Missions and Exhibitions for 2000/2001.

Decided: that the proposed International Trade Programme for 2000/2001, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved in principle.

(3) INTERIM REPORT ON EVALUATION OF WEST OF SCOTLAND TRADE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME: APRIL 1997 - DECEMBER 1998

8. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 October 1999, there was submitted a report dated 15 December 1999 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding the Committee that external consultants, Strategem Limited, had been commissioned to carry out detailed monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the West of Scotland Trade Partnership's International Trade Programme on all companies in the West of Scotland which had participated in the Programme during the period from April 1997 to December 1998; (2) intimating that as it had not been possible for the consultants to publish their final report within the Council's required timescale, an Interim Report had been published; (3) enclosing, as an Appendix, a copy of the interim report which indicated a positive response from companies which had received support from the Partnership; (4) containing his observations on the Interim Report, and (5) advising that the final evaluation report should be completed within the near future.

Decided:

- (1) that the Interim Report published by Strategem Limited be noted, and
(2) that the report be otherwise noted.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ENTERPRISE AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE: ENQUIRY INTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN SCOTLAND

9. There was submitted a report dated 27 January 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising that the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee had recently published a consultation document entitled "Enquiry into Economic Development Services in Scotland"; (2) containing details on the content of the consultation document and his observations thereon, and (3) enclosing (a) a copy of the consultation document, and (b) a copy of the response which had been sent by the Director of Administration, following consultation with him, to the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken by the Director of Administration, in consultation with the Director of Planning and Environment, in responding to the consultation document published by the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee entitled "Enquiry into Economic Development Services in Scotland" be homologated, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

BUSINESS START-UP PROJECT FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION AREAS

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 January 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising (a) that a Task Group comprising of representatives from the Economic Development Unit, the Motherwell North Social Inclusion Partnership, the Lanarkshire Development Agency and the three North Lanarkshire Enterprise Trusts had developed a model which aimed to increase the low number of business start-ups from unemployed residents within the North Lanarkshire Regeneration and Social Inclusion Partnership areas; (b) that, in developing the model, the Task Group had taken cognisance of the issues raised by O'Herlihy and Company in its publication entitled "Review of Business Start-Up in Priority Communities"; (c) that it was intended that between February and April 2000 a Business Start-Up Project, based on the model, would be piloted within the South Coatbridge Social Inclusion Partnership area by the Monklands Enterprise Development Company, and (d) that, following an evaluation of this pilot Project, it was anticipated that full roll-out of the Project to all North Lanarkshire Social Inclusion Partnership and Regeneration areas would commence in April 2000 and operate until March 2001; (2) indicating (a) that the anticipated cost of the full Project was £90,000 of which a maximum of £25,000 could be met from within his Department's existing budgets, and (b) that the remaining £65,000 of the Project's costs would be met by the Lanarkshire Development Agency, and (3) intimating (a) that the model was currently being reviewed by South Lanarkshire Council to determine whether the Project could be extended to the whole of Lanarkshire, and (b) that further sources of funding were being examined and it was anticipated that a funding request would be submitted to the European Social Fund.

Decided:

- (1) that the operation of a pilot "Business Start-Up" Project within the South Coatbridge Social Inclusion Partnership be approved;
- (2) that, following a successful evaluation of the pilot Project, the roll-out of the "Business Start-Up" Project to cover all of the Regeneration and Social Inclusion Partnership areas in North Lanarkshire be approved;
- (3) that the provision of up to £25,000 to meet the cost of the "Business Start-Up" Project from existing Planning and Environment budgets be approved;
- (4) that the measures taken to access external sources of funding for the projects be noted, and
- (5) that the report be remitted to the Social Inclusion Committee for its information.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION - "EVALUATION OF BENEFICIARIES" STUDY - APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

11. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 November 1999, there was submitted a report dated 27 January 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) intimating that, whilst the benefits of closed circuit television were evident to
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members of the public and to a range of public and private organisations, difficulties existed in ensuring ongoing revenue funding to support the annual running costs of operating Closed Circuit Television Systems; (2) proposing that a firm of consultants be appointed to undertake a study of the benefits and beneficiaries of closed circuit television; (3) advising that the total cost of the study, including expenses, was estimated at £10,000, and (4) indicating that £5,000 of the cost of the study could be met from within his Department's existing budgets with North Lanarkshire Closed Circuit Television Limited agreeing to contribute the remaining £5,000.

Decided:

- (1) that the appointment of a firm of consultants to undertake a study of the benefits and beneficiaries of closed circuit television be approved;
- (2) that it be noted that the total cost of the study, including expenses, was £10,000 of which £5,000 was being met by North Lanarkshire Closed Circuit Television Limited;
- (3) that the remaining £5,000 towards the cost of the study be met from the Department of Planning and Environment's existing budgets, and
- (4) that the report be otherwise noted.

PARTNERSHIP ACTION FOR CONTINUING EMPLOYMENT (PACE)

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 January 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising that the Scottish Executive had recently published a consultation document entitled "Partnership Action for Continuing Employment"; (2) containing details of the content of the consultation document and his observations thereon, and (3) enclosing, as Appendices, (a) the Executive Summary of the consultation document and (b) a copy of the joint response sent by him and the Director of Social Work to the Scottish Executive in respect of the consultation document.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken by the Director of Planning and Environment and the Director of Social Work in responding to the consultation document published by the Scottish Executive entitled "Partnership Action for Continuing Employment" be homologated, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

**REMIT FROM SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2000 -
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCOTTISH LEARNING NETWORK IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE**

13. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Inclusion Committee held on 27 January 2000, there was submitted a report dated 20 December 1999 by the Chief Executive relative to the implementation of the Scottish Learning Network in North Lanarkshire which had been remitted to this Committee for its interest.

Decided: that the report be noted.

The Convener, being of the opinion that the following item of business was relevant, competent and urgent authorised its consideration to enable Members to consider the proposal at the earliest possible date.

RAVENS CRAIG AND GARTCOSH REGENERATION

14. The Convener proposed that the Committee receive regular reports summarising the up to date position regarding the ongoing developments in respect of the regeneration of the former British Steelwork sites at Ravenscraig and Gartcosh.

Decided: that the Director of Planning and Environment submit reports to future meetings of the Committee summarising the up to date position regarding the ongoing developments in respect of the regeneration of the former British Steelwork sites at Ravenscraig and Gartcosh.

CONFERENCES ETC.

(1) “GROWING COMPANIES: EXPANDING HORIZONS”

15. There was submitted an invitation from the Scottish Council for Development and Industry to be represented at its conference entitled “Growing Companies: Expanding Horizons” to be held in Gleneagles on 16 and 17 March 2000.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(2) “COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND URBAN REGENERATION: A NEW FUTURE OR RE-INVENTING THE WHEEL”

16. There was submitted an invitation by the University of Birmingham to be represented at its conference entitled “Community Involvement and Urban Regeneration: A New Future or Re-inventing the Wheel” which had been held in Birmingham on 25 January 2000.

Decided: that it be noted that the Council had not been represented at this conference.

(3) 5TH INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON “TOURISM STATISTICS”

17. There was submitted an invitation by Glasgow Caledonian University to be represented at its 5th International Forum on “Tourism Statistics” to be held in Glasgow from 20 to 23 June 2000.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.