

Motherwell, 20 April 2000 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Brooks, Convener; Councillor Curran, Vice-Convener; Councillors Brady, Burns, Homer, Love, Lyle, Morgan, Nolan, Pentland, Saunders, Selfridge and Valentine.

CHAIR

Councillor Brooks (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Councillors Donnelly, McCabe and H. McGuigan.

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 8 March 2000, there was submitted a report dated 30 March 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 1999 to 27 February 2000; (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.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT - SERVICE PLAN 2000-2003

2. With reference to paragraph 24 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 November 1999, there was submitted, for consideration as part of the Council's annual corporate planning process, a report (docketed) by the Director of Planning and Environment detailing his Department's Service Plan for the years 2000 to 2003.

Decided: that the Department of Planning and Environment's Service Plan, relative to the operation of the Economic Development Unit for the years 2000 to 2003, be approved and noted.

BUSINESS LOANS FUND - JOB CREATION/SAFEGUARDING

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 March 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 March 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding the Committee (a) that the principal activity of the Loans Fund was to

provide loan finance of up to £30,000 to small and medium sized enterprises, either start-up or existing, with good commercial proposals but which had difficulty raising finance from conventional private sector sources, and (b) that loans were available to eligible companies through the "Business Loan Scheme" and the "Small Business Support Scheme", and (2) detailing and evaluating the number of jobs created and safeguarded within companies which had received a loan through these Schemes during the financial year 1998/99.

Decided: that the report be noted.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

(1) EVALUATION OF WEST OF SCOTLAND TRADE PARTNERSHIP (WSTP) PROGRAMME: APRIL 1997 TO DECEMBER 1998

4. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 January 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 March 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding the Committee (a) that external consultants, Strategem Limited, had been commissioned to carry out detailed monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the West of Scotland Trade Partnerships 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, and (b) that an interim report by Strategem Limited had been published in January 2000; (2) advising that, at the conclusion of its monitoring and evaluation exercise, Strategem Limited had subsequently published its final report which (a) indicated a high level of satisfaction with the Programme and its delivery by Councils; (b) demonstrated value for money in terms of money spent compared to additional export sales achieved, and (c) made recommendations for the development of the Programme, and (3) detailing the findings and containing his observations thereon.

Decided:

- (1) that the findings of the final report published by Strategem be noted, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

(2) UPDATE ON ACTIVITY OF THE LANARKSHIRE EXPORT PARTNERSHIP (LEP)

5. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 26 August 1999, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 March 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding the Committee that, as a member of the Lanarkshire Export Partnership, the Council, together with South Lanarkshire Council and Lanarkshire Development Agency, contributed towards the cost of funding an Export Counsellor who worked closely with International Trade Officers within both Councils to support Lanarkshire exporters and potential exporters; (2) summarising (a) the performance of the Lanarkshire Export Partnership against the objectives of its Export Strategy document and Marketing Plan, and (b) the Partnership's planned activities; (3) advising that this Council's proportion of the salary costs of the Export Councillor amounted to £5,000 which could be met from within his Department's existing International Trade Budget, and (4) proposing, for the reasons detailed therein, that the Council continue to meet its proportion of the cost of funding the post of an Export Counsellor within the Lanarkshire Export Partnership.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council contribute £5,000 from within the Department of Planning and Environment's existing International Trade Budget towards the continued funding of the post of Export Councillor within the Lanarkshire Export Partnership, and

(2) that the report be otherwise noted.

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL'S COMMENTS ON THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE DOCUMENT
"DEVELOPING SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY - TRAINING FOR THE LONG TERM
UNEMPLOYED"**

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 April 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising that the Scottish Executive had recently published a consultation document entitled "Developing Skills and Employability - Training for the Long Term Unemployed"; (2) containing details on the content of the consultation document and his observations thereon, and (3) enclosing a synopsis of a response which he had sent to the Scottish Executive in relation to the consultation document.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken by the Director of Planning and Environment in responding to the consultation document published by the Scottish Executive entitled "Developing Skills and Employability - Training for the Long Term Unemployed" be homologated, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

**"WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP: A BEST PRACTICE DOCUMENT" - REPORT BACK
TO THE CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 March 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising that the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities had requested progress reports from local authorities and Local Enterprise Companies in respect of a document signed by the Convention and Scottish Enterprise entitled "Working Together in Partnership: A Best Practice Document"; (2) proposing that the Council respond to the Convention's request by contributing to a joint response with South Lanarkshire Council and Lanarkshire Development Agency in which examples of Best Practice of Partnership Working would be detailed, and (3) detailing those areas of Best Practice which may be highlighted in the joint response.

Decided: that the Council respond to the request received from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities for a progress report in respect of a document entitled "Working Together in Partnership: A Best Practice Document" by contributing to a joint response with South Lanarkshire Council and Lanarkshire Development Agency in which examples of Best Practice, as contained within the report, would be detailed.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION LIMITED

(1) UPDATE

8. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 January 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 March 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising of the progress made, to date, by North Lanarkshire Closed Circuit Television Limited, and (2) enclosing, as Appendices, the Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors of North Lanarkshire Close Circuit Television Limited held on 18 January and 7 March 2000.

Decided:

- (1) that the Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors of North Lanarkshire Closed Circuit Television Limited of 18 January and 7 March 2000 be noted, and

- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

(2) EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

9. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 January 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 April 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding the Committee that in 1999 the Scottish Executive had announced a Challenge Fund under the headings of "Community Safety" and "Closed Circuit Television" which enabled community organisations to bid for funding which could amount to up to 50% of the capital costs associated with introducing Closed Circuit Television Initiatives in their local areas; (2) intimating (a) that, as a consequence of the interest generated by the Challenge Fund, North Lanarkshire Closed Circuit Television Limited had received funding requests for local Closed Circuit Television Initiatives from elected Members and representatives of community organisations; (b) that it was anticipated that the Scottish Executive would announce its Closed Circuit Television Challenge Fund 2000/2001 in the near future, and (c) that, for the reasons detailed therein, there was a requirement to establish an evaluation framework against which applications for funding could be assessed by the Council; (3) summarising the various issues which would require to be addressed in evaluating applications; (4) detailing the possible financial implications for the Council if it agreed to support additional Closed Circuit Television Initiatives; (5) outlining the assessment process for considering applications for funding, and (6) enclosing, as an Appendix to the report, a draft Application Form for Closed Circuit Television Installation.

Decided: that the evaluation framework and the assessment process for the implementation of the forthcoming round of Closed Circuit Television Challenge Fund Bids, as detailed in the report, be approved.

REMIT FROM PERSONNEL SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 MARCH 2000 - ABSENCE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1999

10. With reference to paragraph 22 of the Minute of the meeting of the Personnel Services Committee held on 16 March 2000, there was submitted a report dated 25 February 2000 by the Head of Personnel Services providing absence statistics together with a commentary detailing the breakdown of the figures within the Department of Planning and Environment and other Departments of the Council for the period from 1 October to 31 December 1999 for manual and craft employees, non-manual staff and teachers.

Decided: that the report be noted.

REMIT FROM EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 MARCH 2000 - NEW DEAL INITIATIVE - ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

11. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education (Resources) Sub-Committee held on 2 March 2000, there was submitted a report dated February 2000 by the Director of Education outlining the up to date position in relation to the recruitment of New Deal Trainees by Wisestart Limited to undertake an Environmental Project under the Government's New Deal Initiative.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY (SCDI)

12. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 March 2000, the Committee resumed consideration of the report (docketed) dated 14 February 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment which (1) reminded the Committee that the Council had, in the past, taken out annual membership of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, and (2) proposed, for the reasons detailed therein, that the Council's membership of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry be discontinued.

Decided: that the Council's membership of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry be discontinued with effect from 2000/2001.

CONFERENCES

(1) "BUSINESS INNOVATION AND SOCIAL ECONOMY"

13. There was submitted an invitation from Business Lab Limited to be represented at its conference entitled "Business Innovation and Social Economy" to be held in Glasgow on 4 May 2000.

Decided: that one Member be authorised to attend the conference.

(2) "EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS IN TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

14. There was submitted an invitation from the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies to be represented at its conference entitled "Effective Partnerships in Tourism and Economic Development" to be held in Birmingham on 19 May 2000.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.