

Motherwell, 24 August 2000 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

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

CHAIR

Councillor Brooks (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer; Economic Development Manager; Senior Economic Development Officer and Senior Accountant, Department of Finance.

APOLOGIES

Councillors McElroy, Morgan, Pentland and Saunders.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS FOCUS

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) seeking the views of elected Members on proposed changes to "Business Focus", the newsletter of the Economic Development Unit; (2) inviting comments relating to the review of the publication; (3) outlining the background relative thereto, and (4) proposing (a) that the number of issues produced be reduced and that it be now be produced bi-monthly with a flexible schedule; (b) that the number of pages be increased from 8 to 12 and the A4 format be retained; (c) that coverage given over to North Lanarkshire Council services be maximised, particularly those of the Department of Planning and Environment, and (d) that new regular features, including town centres and tourism, be introduced.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed changes to the Business Focus, as outlined in the report, be approved, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

LANARKSHIRE ON-LINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY - UPDATE

2. Under reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 January 2000, there was submitted a report dated 25 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating the Committee on progress made with the Lanarkshire On-line Business Directory Web-site; (2) seeking approval for a contribution to the further development of the On-line Business Directory in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council and Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire; (3) outlining the background relative thereto; (4) indicating future development proposals and development costs, and (5) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the future development of Lanarkshire On-line Business Directory, at a cost not exceeding £8,600 to be funded from existing resources, be approved;

- (2) that further reports be submitted in due course to provide an update on the project, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND APPLICATIONS - ESF OBJECTIVE 3

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) seeking approval of the submission of applications to the European Social Fund Objective 3 Programme for various economic development support measures, as outlined in the Appendix to the report; (2) outlining the aims of the Programme and the timetable for approving the applications for funding, and (3) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the applications for European Social Fund Objective 3 Funding, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

PETERSBURN CRAIGNEUK INITIATIVE - FUNDING 2000-2001

4. There was submitted a report dated 26 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) seeking approval to continue funding of the Petersburn Craigneuk Initiative for the financial year 2000-2001; (2) advising the Committee of the outcome of a recent evaluation of the Initiative; (3) summarising the main conclusions including the continuation of a contribution of £15,000 towards the operational management expenditure of the Initiative, and (4) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the budgetary contribution of £15,000, as a contribution towards the operational management costs of the Petersburn Craigneuk Initiative for the financial year 2000-2001, be approved;
- (2) that a further report be submitted prior to the end of this financial year on the progress of the implementation of the evaluation recommendations, including appropriate future funding proposals, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

TENDER FOR TRADE/MEET THE BUYER EVENT

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising the Committee of a proposed "Tender for Trade" business event; (2) detailing the timetable, structure, aims and objectives of the event and background relative thereto; (3) indicating that the anticipated cost of the project is £20,000 which reflected the costs of hiring the venue and both organising and promoting the event; (4) providing, in the Appendix to the report, a detailed breakdown of the relevant costs involved; (5) intimating that it is intended that the "Tender for Trade" event will deliver a number of social and economic benefits to North Lanarkshire's economy and its residents, and (6) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that expenditure of £20,000 on the organisation and promotion of the “Tender for Trade” event be approved, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

LANARKSHIRE KEY FUND

6. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating Members on the management and operational arrangements relating to the implementation of the Lanarkshire Key Fund; (2) indicating the activity areas and the strategic approach adopted; (3) summarising the progress which had been made since his last report; (4) enclosing copies of the Minutes of the previous three Lanarkshire Key Fund Board Meetings; (5) outlining the financial status of the Fund, and (6) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that further reports be submitted on a quarterly basis.

CUMBERNAULD COLLEGE – LEARNING CENTRE FOR THE NORTHERN CORRIDOR

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 August 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment together with a letter from the Principal of Cumbernauld College (tabled and docketed) dated 2 August 2000 (1) updating Members on the outcome of discussions to provide training and employment initiatives in the Northern Corridor area; (2) requesting approval to award a grant of £10,000 to Cumbernauld College to support the establishment of a Learning Centre in the Chryston Valley Business Centre; (3) indicating that the College had requested the grant of £10,000 to assist with adapting the premises for new technology and supporting infrastructure to enable it to operate effectively as a Learning Centre, and (4) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the application by Cumbernauld College for a grant of £10,000, as outlined in the report, be approved, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT - BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 August 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) providing (a) comparative information with regard to budget estimates and actual income/expenditure for the period ending 25 June 2000 for the Economic Development Unit of the Department of Planning and Environment, and (b) explanations of the more significant variances, and (2) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT -
BUDGET OUTTURN 1999/2000**

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 August 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) providing (a) comparative information with regard to budget estimates and actual expenditure/income for the period ended 31 March 2000 for the Economic Development Unit of the Planning and Environment Department, and (b) explanations of the more significant variances, and (2) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

**SUPPORT WORKER (LOCAL TRAINING SUPPORT CENTRES) - TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF
CONTRACT**

10. Under reference to paragraph 22 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report dated 24 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding Members of a previous decision to approve the temporary extension of the contract of employment of the Support Worker (Local Training Support Centres) until September 2000; (2) indicating that, due to a delay in the application process for submission of European Social Fund Objective 3 Projects, it was necessary to seek a further extension of the contact until December 2000; (3) indicating that funding to meet the cost of the extension of the Project could be met from the existing budgets; (4) confirming that the Head of Personnel Services had been consulted on the requirement for a temporary extension, and (5) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the temporary extension of the contract for the Support Worker (Local Training Support Centres) for a period to December 2000 be approved;
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for its interests, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

STRATEGIC INWARD INVESTMENT IN LANARKSHIRE

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 14 August 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising the Committee of the findings of a study, carried out by EDAW Limited, into inward investment activity in Lanarkshire which had been commissioned by the Locate in Lanarkshire Partnership which comprised representatives of Scottish Office, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Council and North Lanarkshire Council; (2) summarising the background to the study being commissioned; (3) outlining the key findings of the EDAW Study; (4) detailing in paragraph 8 to the report, the study's main recommendations covering all aspects of Locate In Lanarkshire, and (5) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the main recommendations of the EDAW study, as outlined in paragraph 8 to the report, be approved;
- (2) that the further work identified by Locate in Lanarkshire to process the action plan be approved, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT - COMMUNICATIONS - PROGRESS

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating the Committee on progress, with regard to the work of the Communications Group which he had established with the task of reviewing and recommending actions which would lead to improved internal and external communications involving the Department of Planning and Environment; (2) outlining the findings relative thereto; (3) containing his observations thereon, and (4) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

TRAINING ASSISTANCE GRANT - PROGRAMME MONITORING 1999-2000

13. Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report dated 24 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating the Committee on the operation of the Training Assistance Grant Programme for the year 1999-2000; (2) advising that an evaluation questionnaire had been issued to all applicants who had completed training by 5 June 2000; (3) summarising the findings of the questionnaire; (4) detailing the results of a monitoring exercise between North Lanarkshire Council and the Employment Services concerning the current situation of beneficiaries as at 30 June 2000, and (5) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

LANARKSHIRE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CENTRE

14. Under reference to paragraph 21 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 March 1998, there was submitted a report dated 30 June 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating the Committee on the activity of the Lanarkshire Technology and Innovation Centre during 1999 to 2000 and its Operating Plan for 2000/2001; (2) summarising the background and aims of the Innovation Centre, and (3) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Chair of the Lanarkshire Technology and Innovation Centre be invited to give a presentation to the next meeting of the Committee on innovation and technology initiatives in North Lanarkshire, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

REDUNDANCY SUPPORT PROVISION

15. Under reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report dated 13 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating the Committee on work undertaken by Council Departments with regard to the provision of redundancy support to affected workforces throughout North Lanarkshire; (2) indicating the current position since the last report on 8 June 2000; (3) advising that since that date the Council had received notification of four new redundancy situations; (4) summarising the up to date position regarding the proposed formation of a Lanarkshire Partnership Action for Continuing Employment Organisation, and (5) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that further reports on the development of Partnership Action for Continuing Employment and on general redundancy support be submitted in due course.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE BUSINESS DIRECTORY 2000

16. Under reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 March 2000, there was submitted a report dated 18 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing the Committee of progress regarding the publication of the North Lanarkshire Business Directory 2000; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) indicating that the North Lanarkshire Business Directory 2000 was to be officially launched at a photocall held at Monklands Area Enterprise on Tuesday, 25 July 2000; (4) advising that, since the Economic Development Unit took delivery of the Directories on 28 June 2000, sales had generated income of £715, and (5) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

WOMEN'S PLACEMENT PROGRAMME

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising Members on the operation of the Women's Placement Programme delivered during the period from February to June 2000; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) indicating that development work is presently ongoing with regard to the future provision of the Women's Placement Programme in partnership with Coatbridge, Cumbernauld and Motherwell Colleges of Education and the European Social Fund Objective 3 Programme, and (4) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that it be noted that further reports will be submitted on the future operation of the programme.

GRANT SUPPORT FOR CCTV FOR 2000/2001

18. Under reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed and tabled) dated 10 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising the Committee of the outcome of a bid for funding support from the Chief Constable's Fund for CCTV support for 2000/2001; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) indicating that North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited, on behalf of North Lanarkshire Council, had accepted the grant award of £58,000 from the Chief Constable which represented a reduction of 21½% on last year's total, and (4) intimating that Halcrow Fox, Edinburgh, had been appointed to carry out an evaluation study to identify the beneficiaries and quantify the benefits of CCTV.

Decided:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – 24 August 2000

- (1) that it be noted that North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited had been awarded a total £58,000 from the Chief Constable CCTV Grant Support Scheme;
- (2) that it be further noted that this sum represented a reduction of 21½% on last year's award;
- (3) that the appointment of the consultants, Halcrow Fox to conduct an evaluation study to identify the beneficiaries and quantify the benefits of CCTV be noted, and
- (4) that the outcome of the study be reported to the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UPDATE 1999/2000

19. Under reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing the Committee of the participation of North Lanarkshire companies in the West of Scotland Trade Partnership International Trade Programme for the year 1999/2000; (2) enclosing, as an Appendix to the report, a list of the companies supported at West of Scotland Trade Partnership and Lanarkshire Export Partnerships events during 1999/2000, and (3) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

QUARTERLY REPORTS – PERIOD 1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2000

(1) ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

20. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing the Committee of the progress made in respect of the implementation of the Environmental Task Force in Lanarkshire during the period 1 April to 30 June 2000, and (2) enclosing, as Appendices, statistical information relative to the performance of the Environmental Task Force in Lanarkshire for the period from 1 August 1998 to 30 June 2000.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that future monitoring reports be submitted on a quarterly basis.

(2) BOOST FOR BUSINESS START-UP - QUARTERLY REPORT

21. Under reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report dated 11 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment providing details of applications received and considered under the Council's Boost For Business Start-Up Programme during the period from 1 April to 30 June 2000.

Decided: that the report be noted.

(3) YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING INITIATIVE 2000 - QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2000

22. Under reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report dated 11 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment providing details of applications received and approved under the Council's Youth Employment and Training Initiative during the period from 1 April to 30 June 2000.

Decided: that the report be noted.

(4) INTERNATIONAL TRADE UPDATE - FIRST QUARTER 2000/2001

23. Under reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 April 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) summarising assistance afforded to companies in North Lanarkshire through the West of Scotland Partnership International Trade Programme for the period from 1 April to 30 June 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.

(5) TRAINING ASSISTANCE GRANT - QUARTERLY REPORT 1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2000

24. Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report dated 19 July 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment providing details of the applications received and approved under the Council's Training Assistance Grant Scheme for the period from 1 April to 30 June 2000.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that future reports be submitted on a quarterly basis.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE

25. There was submitted a report dated 16 August 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) providing service performance information for the first quarter of the year 2000/2001 on (a) statutory performance indicators; (b) compliments, comments and complaints; (c) Service Plan core tasks; (d) Corporate Service Charter; (e) Building Control and Economic Development Unit Action Plans, and (f) Key Performance Indicator targets for the year 2002/2003; (2) outlining the background relative thereto, and (3) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

CUMBERNAULD TOWN CENTRE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

26. Under reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 March 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 August 2000 by Director of Planning and Environment (1) referring to the implementation of the Cumbernauld Town Centre Environmental Enhancement Programme which had originally been approved by the Committee at its meeting on

9 March 2000; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) summarising the progress to date with regard to the St. Mungo's Town Centre Entrance Project; (4) advising, for the reasons detailed therein, that the works for this Project would now be carried out by Rock Special Projects Limited at a cost of £107,800, and (5) indicating how the Project would be funded.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the St Mungo's Town Centre Entrance Project, identified as an environmental enhancement programme, would be carried out by Rock Special Projects Limited;
- (2) that the funding model, outlined in the report, be approved, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Planning and Environment and Social Inclusion Committees for their information.

REMIT FROM THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF 21 JUNE 2000 - BEST VALUE - PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK REPORTING SCHEDULE 2000/2001

27. Under reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 21 June 2000, there was submitted a report dated 21 June 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) proposing a reporting schedule to be submitted annually to the Planning and Environment Committee with regard to certain Departmental functions; (2) outlining the background relative thereto, and (3) recommending that the report be noted.

Decided: that the report be noted.

REMIT FROM PERSONNEL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 15 JUNE 2000 - ABSENCE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS - JANUARY - MARCH 2000

28. Under reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the meeting of Personnel Services Committee held on 15 June 2000, there was submitted a report dated 4 May 2000 by the Head of Personnel Services providing absence statistics together with a commentary detailing the breakdown of the figures within the Planning and Environment Department.

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 the invitation to be considered timeously.

UFRA 2000 - SCHWEINFURT, GERMANY FROM 30 SEPTEMBER 2000 FOR NINE DAYS - INVITATION

29. There was submitted a letter dated 24 August 2000 (tabled) (docketed) from the Head of the Department of Economic Development at Stadt Schweinfurt (1) referring to the UFRA 2000 Show to be held in Schweinfurt, Germany from 30 September 2000 for nine days, and (2) inviting the Convener of this Committee to be his guest during the event, or part of that time, to enable the Convener to see the benefits of the Show to business and the community.

Decided: that Councillor Brooks be authorised to attend.