

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

REPORT

To : ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVES LTD – PROGRESS REPORT
From : DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date : 23 November 2000	Ref. : Rep756 JH/TCI/2.4.1	

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members on the progress of Town Centre Initiatives Ltd and to authorise the release of funding to this organisation.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the company was set up to assist in the development of town centres across North Lanarkshire and that certain priorities were identified for the current year, viz.

- (i) Clarify role and remit of Town Centre Forums
- (ii) Identify key partners and look to build links
- (iii) Develop a strategy aimed at raising profile of Town Centre Initiatives
- (iv) Create a database of town centre retailers etc.
- (v) Identify potential improvement projects
- (vi) Promote wider recognition of town centres
- (vii) Improve cleanliness of centres.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 In the course of the past year progress has been made in many areas albeit that many difficulties have yet to be overcome. These include:

- Successful work placement programme via S.T.E.P. (Shell Technology Enterprise Programme).
- Creation of town centres database
- E.T.F. project in Cumbernauld commenced.
- Successful town centre events
- Company identity/branding ongoing
- Town Centre audits undertaken
- Stronger links between Town Centre Initiatives/North Lanarkshire CCTV – creating safer town centres across North Lanarkshire.
- Town Centre Forums continue to be supported by Town Centre Initiatives.

4 Outcomes

- 4.1 Although much has been achieved it is evident from the state of all town centres that more strenuous efforts are required to create an atmosphere of vitality which will encourage stability and some growth. There is a need to openly commit to the centres in a way which generates a positive “feel good” factor – town centres mirror what is taking place around them.

4.2 Overall, progress is slow but could be assisted by –

- The recognition, across departmental boundaries, that Town Centre Initiatives has been set up to be a link with the Council and to assist the whole process of town centre activity.
- Stronger partnership working arrangements.
- Re-examination of resources being provided.
- Creation of partnership priorities for each town.
- Higher levels of flexibility, communication and facilitation from those involved in town centres.
- A co-ordinated approach.

5 Summary

5.1 Town Centre Initiatives Ltd has made progress in the past year but requires to be further strengthened to reflect what is happening in and around town centres in North Lanarkshire.

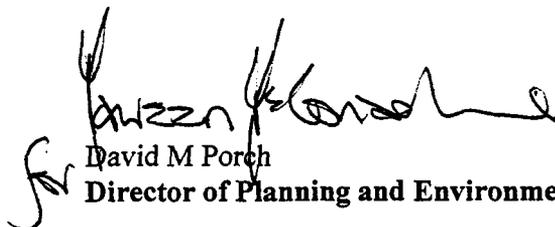
5.2 Issues relating to town centre strategy

- Relationships/communication/routes to and from the Council are becoming increasingly important to all concerned.
- Town centre safety, embracing elements of CCTV, crime, drugs misuse, continue to take up a significant proportion of many people's concerns and will present further challenges on the road to resolution.

5.2 There is a clear requirement to view progress over a longer timescale and, while many frustrations continue, there does appear to be a marked improvement in operations. Hopefully this can be expanded upon with the relevant effort and support.

6 Recommendation

6.1 Members are asked to note and approve the contents of this report.


David M Porch
Director of Planning and Environment

27 October 2000