

Motherwell, 23 November 2000 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

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

CHAIR

Councillor Brooks (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer; Director of Planning and Environment; and Accountant, Department of Finance.

APOLOGIES

Councillors McCabe, Nolan, Saunders, Shaw and Stocks

ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE

(1) PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

1. There was submitted a report dated 27 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing the Committee of the production of a promotional video for the Environment Task Force Option of the Government's New Deal Programme in Lanarkshire; (2) reminding Members that North Lanarkshire was leading a consortium, in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, to deliver the Environment Task Force option of the New Deal across Lanarkshire under contract to the Employment Service; (3) advising that, as the Environment Task Force video had been produced as part of the Training Project, total costs incurred had been below normal market levels and would be no more than £5,000; (4) indicating that copies of the video would be distributed to the Employment Service for presentation to the target audience in Job Centres throughout Lanarkshire, and (5) recommending that the Committee note the report.

The Committee then took the opportunity to view the video.

Decided:

- (1) that all Area Committees and schools within North Lanarkshire be afforded the opportunity of viewing the video;
- (2) that a report tracking the progress of those who had participated in the schemes outlined in the video be submitted by the Director of Planning and Environment to a future meeting of the Committee, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

(2) QUARTERLY UPDATE - SECOND QUARTER 2000/2001

2. Under reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing the Committee of the progress made in respect of the implementation of the Environment Task Force in Lanarkshire during the period from 1 July to 30 September 2000, and (2) enclosing, as Appendices, statistical information relative to the performance of the Environment Task Force in Lanarkshire during that period.

Decided: that the report be noted.

SERVICE PLAN 2001/2002

3. Under reference to paragraph 24 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 November 1999, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 November 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) enclosing a copy of his Department's draft Service Plan for the year 2001/2002 as part of the Council's corporate planning process; (2) indicating that the Plan, which contained various options for consideration, provided useful input into the Services Budget Process and an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on the options and priorities presented; (3) advising that the draft Service Plan, together with any observations or requests for amendments to the content would require to be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee to ensure consideration of all Service Plans as a component of the authority's overall budget process, and (4) recommending appropriate action.

Various Members thereafter made observations on the Plan in particular in relation to strategic inward investment, Gartcosh and the Ravenscraig Master Plans.

Decided:

- (1) that the draft service plan, together with the observations made by Members on the draft Plan be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration;
- (2) that a Special meeting of the Committee be called to discuss inward investment with regard to Gartcosh, and that an invitation to attend be extended to local MPs, MSPs and Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVES LIMITED

(1) PROGRESS

4. Under reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report dated 27 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding Members that Town Centre Initiatives Limited was set up to assist in the development of Town Centres across North Lanarkshire advising Members of progress and highlighting the priorities identified for the current year; (2) seeking authorisation to release funding for the organisation; (3) indicating that, in the course of the last year, progress has been made in many areas, including (a) the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme creation of Town Centres database; (b) the Environmental Task Force Project in Cumbernauld; (c) successful Town Centre events; (d) company identity/branding; (e) Town Centre audits; (f) stronger links between Town Centre Initiatives/North Lanarkshire CCTV, and (g) Town Centre Forums which continue to be supported by the Town Centre Initiatives; (4) outlining how the progress could be assisted, and (5) summarising two issues relating to Town Centre strategy.

Decided: that the report be noted.

The Convener agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

(2) MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING AND PROGRESS REPORT

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) received on 21 November 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating Members on the progress by Town Centre Initiatives Limited as outlined in the Service Level Agreement 2000/2001; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) attaching, as Appendices to the report, Minutes of its Board meeting of 4 May and the Project Manager's monitoring report of 31 October 2000, and (4) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

CONTROL OF FLY POSTING IN TOWN CENTRES

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) received on 21 November 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) seeking approval for proposed joint action between Town Centre Initiatives (TCI) Limited and the Council in targeting preventative and enforcement action on illegal fly posting in town centres; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) advising that it was proposed that an action plan be established between TCI, the Council and other relevant parties in terms acceptable to all parties, this plan to be co-ordinated by the TCI; (4) indicating that the plan would identify a hit list of fly posting black spots in the town centres where fly posting had been identified as a major concern, and (5) recommending that the actions, detailed in paragraph 3 to the report, be approved.

Decided:

- (1) that the actions as detailed in paragraph 3 to the report, be approved, and
(2) that the report be otherwise noted.

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

7. Under reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 5 October 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 November 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 15 October 2000 for the Economic Development Unit of the Department of Planning and Environment, and (b) explanations on the more significant variances, and (2) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE CCTV LIMITED

(1) PROGRESS

8. Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 1 April 1999, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising Members on the progress of the North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited; (2) advising the Committee of progress to date and up to date position; (3) giving details of the financial

position which showed, even following the Council core funding of £37,000, an anticipated shortfall of £30,000, and (4) reminding Members that, in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council, the company had commissioned consultants to undertake and report on the evaluation of a beneficiary study, addressing how CCTV provision can be financed from those deriving benefit from this service.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that the core funding arrangements already in place be homologated.

(2) UPDATE

9. Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 1 April 1999, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating and informing Members of the business activity of North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited; (2) enclosing a copy of the minute of the Board Meeting held on 9 May 2000, and (3) recommending the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CCTV CHALLENGE FUND 2001/2002 - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

10. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating Members on progress made in relation to the submission of a bid to the Scottish Executive CCTV Challenge Fund 2000/2001; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) advising that all Elected Members had been approached regarding the matter and had been requested to return a form detailing CCTV requirements in their Wards; (4) summarising in Appendix A to the report the returns received; (5) pointing out that inherent difficulties existing in financing CCTV installations, initially with capital monies being made available, but also with ongoing revenue support being required; (6) indicating that, whilst not discounting any expression of interest in having CCTV installations provided, as consequence of problems being experienced, priority was being given to initiatives which closely aligned Departmental priorities; (7) proposing, for the reasons detailed therein, that the bid relating to the Tinto/Greenhead area of Wishaw be supported; (8) giving details of the estimated costs for this project, and (9) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the decision to submit a bid to the Scottish Executive Challenge Fund 2001/2002 in the terms outlined in the report be approved;
- (2) that consideration of the revenue funding of the bid relating to the Tinto/Greenhead area be continued pending a further report by the Director of Planning and Environment, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

“NORTH LANARKSHIRE DRIVING FORWARD” PUBLICATION

11. Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 3 March 1999, there was submitted a report dated 27 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising the Committee of the production of an inward investment brochure entitled

“North Lanarkshire Driving Forward”; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) indicating that the publication was designed to aid and encourage inward investment in North Lanarkshire and to complement the efforts of the principal inward investment agencies in Lanarkshire; (4) indicating that given the targeted nature of the publication and the production costs associated with a high quality colour format, an initial print run of 1,000 copies had been produced at a cost of less than £5,000; (5) advising that copies of the brochure would be distributed from Planning and Environment and other appropriate Council Offices on a selective basis in response to enquiries from businesses and other organisations, and (6) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

LANARKSHIRE KEY FUND UPDATE

12. Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 October 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 that ten projects, four of which were in North Lanarkshire, were approved, subject to some minor conditions being satisfied, at a Board Meeting of Lanarkshire Key Fund on 12 October 2000, these projects representing a total of £238,442 of Lanarkshire Key Fund funding; (3) enclosing copies of the Minutes of previous Key Fund Board Meetings; (4) outlining the financial status of the Fund, and (5) recommending appropriate action.

Decided: that the report be noted.

REDUNDANCY SUPPORT PROVISION

13. Under reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report dated 25 October 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) outlining the current position since the last report on 24 August 2000; (3) advising that since that date the Council had received notification of five new redundancy situations; (4) summarising additional developments including the attendance by Economic Development Officers at a conference in Edinburgh on the impact of job losses in the textile industry, and (5) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that further reports on the development of the Partnership Action for Continuing Employment and the Leading Action for Textiles, Clothing and Footwear and on general redundancy support be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

“TENDER FOR TRADE” EVENT - FEBRUARY 2001 - ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

14. Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing the Committee of progress being made in the organisation and development of the North Lanarkshire Council “Tender for Trade” Meet the Buyer Event; (2) detailing the timetable, structure, aims and objectives of the event and the background relative thereto;

(3) indicating that sponsorship has been sought from four major organisations and, to date, S.E.L. have agreed to sponsorship in the sum of £5,000 and UK Steel Enterprise have confirmed a £1,000 donation towards the event, and (4) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that it be noted that the continuing organisation and development of the "Tender for Trade" Event would be the subject of subsequent reports to the Committee.

TRAINING ASSISTANCE GRANT 2000/2001

15. Under reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report dated 26 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating the Committee on the operation of the Training Assistance Grant Scheme for the period 1 July to 30 September 2000; (2) indicating that the budgetary provision for grant assistance to unemployed residents in North Lanarkshire for the financial year was £45,000 funded solely by North Lanarkshire Council; (3) providing details of the applications received and considered during the periods from 1 April to 30 June, 1 July to 30 September and 1 April to 30 September 2000 and (5) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

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

PILOT PRE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

16. Under reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 June 1998, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating the Committee on the work undertaken to develop and pilot a Pre Vocational Training Programme in the Wishaw area; (2) indicating the background relative thereto; (3) providing a description of the programme, management and day to day control of which would be carried out by the Craigneuk Development and Support Unit, and (4) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that a report on the outcome of the pilot programme evaluation be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

QUARTERLY REPORTS - PERIOD 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2000

(1) YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING INITIATIVE

17. Under reference to paragraph 22 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report dated 18 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and
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Environment providing details of applications received and approved under the Council's Youth Employment and Training Initiative during the period from 1 July to 30 September 2000.

Decided: that the report be noted.

(2) BOOST FOR BUSINESS START-UP

18. Under reference to paragraph 21 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report dated 18 October 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 July to 30 September 2000.

Decided: that the report be noted.

(3) BUSINESS LOANS FUND - APPROVALS UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

19. Under reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 5 October 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment informing the Committee of applications received and approved under delegated authority in terms of the Council's Business Loans Fund Scheme during the period from 1 July to 30 September 2000.

Decided: that the report be noted.

(4) INTERNATIONAL TRADE UPDATE

20. Under reference to paragraph 23 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 October 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 July to 30 September 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.

SCOTTISH TRADE INTERNATIONAL - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND - LANARKSHIRE EXPORT PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE

21. There was submitted a report dated 16 October 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising that the Scottish Trade International had circulated a draft of its strategy consultation document entitled "International Business Development Strategy for Scotland"; (2) enclosing a copy the document; (3) containing his observations thereon; (4) enclosing a copy of the Lanarkshire Export Partnership's response to the strategy document, and (5) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

LOCAL AREA ENTERPRISE TRUSTS - ACTIVITY REPORT 1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2000

22. Under reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 November 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing the Committee of the activity of the Local Area Enterprise Trusts during the period from 1 April to 30 September 2000; (2) indicating that specific targets had been given to the Enterprise Trusts to deliver appropriate programmes on the Council's behalf to their client companies; (3) summarising the various activities currently being carried out by the Trusts; (4) containing his observations on the assistance provided by each of the Trusts, to date, and (5) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

UFRA 2000

23. Under reference to paragraph 29 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 November 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) referring to the UFRA Show which had been held in Schweinfurt, Germany, from 30 September 2000 for nine days; (2) indicating, for the reasons detailed therein, that Councillor Burns had attended the Show in place of Councillor Brooks; (3) providing information on possible new economic links as a direct result of the Council being represented at the Show, and (4) advising that a report on Schweinfurt Twinning Association's participation at the Show had been placed in the Members' Library.

Councillor Burns then reported orally on the events etc. which he had attended.

Decided: that the report be noted.

CLOSURE OF SUMMERLEE TRAINING AND RESOURCE UNIT, COATBRIDGE

24. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 November 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising the Committee of the closure of the Summerlee Training Resource Unit Project located at Heritage Way, Coatbridge and of the subsequent relocation of the Economic Development support services; (2) summarising the history and current position of the Unit; (3) advising Members of the various factors which had been taken into consideration prior to the closure of the premises and relocation of staff, and (4) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the closure of the premises located at Summerlee Training Resource Unit, Heritage Way, Coatbridge, with effect from Friday, 27 October 2000, be noted;
- (2) that the decision of the Director of Planning and Environment to effect the closure and relocate the staff and support services be homologated, and
- (3) that a report on the possibility of the building being upgraded, and the costs involved be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE

25. Under reference to paragraph 25 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 November 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) providing service performance information for the second 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, and (e) Building Control and Economic Development Unit Action Plans; (2) outlining the background relative thereto, and (3) recommending that the Committee note the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

CONFERENCES

(1) FORUM OF CITIES AND REGIONS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

26. There was submitted an invitation from the Forum of Cities and Regions in South East Europe to attend a conference in Skopje from 16-18 November 2000.

Decided: that it be noted that no attendance at this conference had been authorised.

(2) “LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES 2000”

27. There was submitted an invitation from LEDIS to attend a conference entitled “Local Economic Development Initiatives 2000” to be held in Newcastle on 13 and 14 November 2000.

Decided: that it be noted that no attendance at this conference had been authorised.

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 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

REMIT FROM SPECIAL HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES (PROPERTY) SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2000 - PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - SITE OF FORMER ST. CATHERINE’S SCHOOL, VIEWPARK

28. Under reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Property Services (Property) Sub-Committee held on 26 October 2000, there was submitted a report dated 18 October 2000 by the Director of Housing and Property Services (1) updating the Committee on progress, to date, on the Property Development Strategy, particularly the result of the tendering exercise to select a developer to work in partnership with the Council on the St. Catherine’s Project, Viewpark; (2) outlining the background relative thereto, and (3) recommending appropriate action.

Decided: that the report be noted.