

Motherwell, 25 January 2001 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, McElroy, H. McGuigan, Saunders, Selfridge, Smith and Valentine.

CHAIR

Councillor Brooks (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Councillors McCabe, Morgan, Nolan and Shaw

LEADING ACTION FOR TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR (LATCF)

1. Under reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 November 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 December 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing the Committee of developments with regard to the proposed formation of a Scottish Branch of the Leading Action for Textiles, Clothing and Footwear (LATCF) Organisation; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) summarising, in Appendices 1 and 2, to the report, the proposal by Dumfries and Galloway Council regarding the establishment of such a Branch and sections of the LATCF Constitution; (4) indicating that copies of the Constitution and Business Plan for the year 2000/2001 were available in the Members Library for information; (5) containing his observations thereon, and (6) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that North Lanarkshire Council agree to become a full Member of the Scottish Branch of LATCF at a cost of £750 per annum, and
- (2) that further reports on issues affecting and concerning the textile industry be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

BUSINESS FOCUS UPDATE - ADVERTISING SPACE

2. Under reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 14 December 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising the Committee of a proposal to sell advertising space in the Business Focus Newsletter; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) providing an analysis of costs associated with the production of the Newsletter; (4) detailing, in the Appendix to the report, proposed rates pertaining to advertising options in the Business Focus; (5) indicating that, subject to Committee approval, it was intended that, the new advertising rates would be introduced by Issue 46 scheduled for production during March/April 2001, and (6) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to accept commercial advertisements in Business Focus be approved;
- (2) that the proposed advertising rates for Business Focus, as outlined in the report, be approved, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

NEW LANARKSHIRE LIMITED - PROJECT FUNDING 2000/2001

3. Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 October 1999, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 December 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding Members (a) that New Lanarkshire Limited, through its Supercounty Campaign, aimed to promote civic pride in Lanarkshire; (b) that in 1996/97 the Council had agreed to discontinue the funding of external bodies from core funding, and (c) that New Lanarkshire Limited had subsequently received project funding of £7,000 per annum from the Council; (2) intimating that since its inception, New Lanarkshire Limited had sponsored a wide range and number of events in Lanarkshire; (3) enclosing, as an Appendix, a list of projects in North Lanarkshire which had been supported by New Lanarkshire Limited through its Supercounty Initiative during the period from July 1999 to August 2000, and (4) seeking approval to provide financial support in the sum of £7,000 to New Lanarkshire Limited for 2000/2001.

Decided: that New Lanarkshire Limited be awarded the sum of £7,000 for the financial year 2000/2001.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE - PROPOSED LANARKSHIRE EXPORT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR 2001/2002

4. Under reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 November 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 December 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 that since European Regional Development Fund support for the West of Scotland Trade Partnership Programme ended on 31 March 2001, it was intended to continue the International Trade Programme through Lanarkshire Export Partnership funded by both North and South Lanarkshire Council budgets, with other sources of funding being sought to replace the European Funding element; (3) indicating that the Lanarkshire Export Partnership intended to continue to maintain the quality of service offered to Lanarkshire companies and proposed to offer a programme of International Trade Events which had been selected on the basis that they met the needs of key sectors of the Lanarkshire economy; (4) intimating that, due to the cyclical nature of the International Exhibitions Programme, many events which the Council was considering targeting for its 2001/2002 Programme took place only once every two or three years, and, in order to guarantee that exhibition space could be secured, it was necessary to book spaces well in advance of the exhibition dates; (5) enclosing, as an Appendix to the report, a proposed programme detailing International Trade events for 2001/2002, and (6) recommending appropriate action.

Decided: that the proposed International Trade Programme for 2001/2002, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved, in principle.

EUROPEAN FUNDING APPLICATIONS - OBJECTIVE 2

5. Under reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 March 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 December 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) seeking approval for the submission of applications to the European Social Funds Objective 2 Programme for various Economic Development support measures as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) indicating that the Objective 2 Operational Programme was submitted to the European Commission for final approval in November 2000, and Programme Approval was expected in January 2001; (4) advising that the first opportunity for applications under the Western Scotland Objective 2 Programme 2000/2006 was anticipated in January 2001 with an expected deadline of 21 February 2001; (5) indicating that development work including consultation with appropriate Partners was now ongoing in order that applications could meet the 21 February 2001 deadline; (6) outlining, in Appendix 1 to the report, the proposed applications, and (7) recommending appropriate action.

The Director of Planning and Environment then orally advised that the deadline for Objective 2 applications had been deferred to 1 March 2001.

Decided:

- (1) that the applications for Western Scotland Objective 2 funding, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

CUMBERNAULD TOWN CENTRE - ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME - PHASE 2

6. Under reference to paragraph 26 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report dated 3 January 2001 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) seeking approval for the second Phase of the Cumbernauld Environmental Enhancement Programme to be undertaken by the Department of Planning and Environment under the auspices of the Environment Task Force to optimise partnership funding; (2) summarising the proposal, the estimated cost of which amounted to £128,600; (3) identifying the three Projects selected; (4) indicating that Rock DCM Limited had recently established themselves in the Lanarkshire area and were able to tender for Council contracts in a competitive manner by offering quality employment and training opportunities on contracts not normally suitable for training projects; (5) confirming that each of the projects had been appraised as being appropriate to be delivered under the Environment Task Force due to the nature of the work and specification of the projects, and (6) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the three Projects identified in the report be delivered as Phase 2 of Cumbernauld Environmental Enhancement Programme on behalf of the Department of Planning and Environment;
- (2) that Rock DCM Limited be invited to tender for the contract to deliver Phase 2;
- (3) that the indicative funding model outlined in the report, together with final figures, be confirmed to a future meeting of the Economic Development Committee, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Planning and Environment and Social Inclusion Committees for information.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME

7. There was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 19 January 2001 by the Directors of Administration, Planning and Environment and Social Work (1) seeking approval, in principle, of the draft Business Plan and Service Level Agreement for the North Lanarkshire Shopmobility Scheme; (2) seeking agreement to transfer monies identified for the Shopmobility Scheme from the Department of Social Work's budget to the Department of Planning and Environment's (Town Centres Initiatives Limited) budget; (3) enclosing a copy of the Shopmobility Scheme's Constitution; (4) outlining the background to the Shopmobility Scheme; (5) containing their observations on the Business Plan, Service Level Agreement, Constitution and funding arrangements, and (6) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the draft Business Plan and Service Level Agreement, which formed Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, be approved, in principle, subject to modification by the Directors of Administration, Planning and Environment and Social Work, should this be deemed necessary;
- (2) that the Constitution of the North Lanarkshire Shopmobility Group, attached as Appendix 3, be noted meantime, and that the Directors of Administration, Planning and Environment and Social Work revert to the Group on any recommended amendments to the Constitution;
- (3) that the monies amounting to £92,000 which had been identified for the Shopmobility Scheme, be transferred from the Department of Social Work's budget to the Department of Planning and Environment's (Town Centres Initiative Limited) budget for the purpose of the Shopmobility Scheme, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Finance Committee for its interest.

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

8. Under reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 November 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 January 2001 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 10 December 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.

REMIT FROM PERSONNEL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 30 NOVEMBER 2000 - ABSENCE MANAGEMENT POLICY - STATISTICS FROM 1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2000

9. Under reference to paragraph 28 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 2000, there was submitted a report dated 20 November 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.

Decided: that the report be noted.

NEW DEAL ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE - STAFFING

10. Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 August 1998, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 January 2001 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) seeking approval to amend the current temporary staffing arrangements of the Environment Task Force as outlined in the report, to enable the Council to fulfil its contractual obligations in respect of the operation and management of the New Deal Environment Task Force option in Lanarkshire; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) summarising the current performance levels of the Environment Task Force option of New Deal; (4) confirming that the staffing costs of the revised staffing structure could be met from the Management Fee derived from the operation of the Environment Task Force, and (5) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the establishment of the Environment Task Force be increased by two additional posts of Administrative Assistant (AP1) on a temporary basis until 31 March 2002, to be recruited internally;
- (2) that the contract in respect of the existing post of Project Co-ordinator be extended on a temporary basis until 31 March 2002;
- (3) that it be noted that the staffing costs relating to the above posts would be met exclusively from the Management Fee derived from the operation of the Environment Task Force;
- (4) that the post of Clerical Assistant post (GS1/2) be deleted from the establishment of the Environment Task Force, and
- (5) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for its interest and approval.

BETTER HOMES - STRONGER COMMUNITIES - EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND OBJECTIVE 3 - STAFFING

11. There was submitted a report dated 11 January 2001 by the Director of Planning and Environment; (1) advising that a Capacity Building Initiative entitled "Better Homes - Strong Communities" had been approved for funding under the Scottish European Social Fund Objective 3 Programme 2001/2006 and that a Fund contribution of £35,159 had been approved towards the implementation of the project during the 2001 calendar year; (2) summarising the project aims and objectives; (3) indicating that the application for Objective 3 funding was for a multi-annual bid covering the period from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2003; (4) intimating that the total project costs for 2001 amounted to £78,131, as detailed therein; (5) stating that in order for the project to commence, there was a requirement to appoint a Development Officer (AP5/PO6) and a part-time Administrative Assistant (AP1) on a temporary basis until 31 December 2001, and (6) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that a Development Officer (AP5/PO6) and a part-time Administrative Assistant (AP1) be appointed on a temporary basis until 31 December 2001;
- (2) that it be noted that future reports on the Better Homes - Stronger Communities Project would be submitted to the Committee on a quarterly basis;
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Housing and Property Services Committee for information, and

- (4) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for information and approval.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND - OBJECTIVE 3 APPLICATIONS - OUTCOME

12. Under reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 5 October 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 December 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing Members of the outcome of applications to the European Social Fund Objective 3 Programme for various economic development support measures; (2) indicating that Objective 3 of the European Social Fund aimed to combat long term unemployment and the integration of groups at risk of exclusion from the labour market, raise skill levels of those in employment and foster a more entrepreneurial culture; (3) outlining the objectives of the Scottish Operational Programme 2000/2006, and (4) detailing, in the Appendix to the report, the successful bids together with a breakdown of the funding.

Decided: that the report be noted.

REDUNDANCY SUPPORT PROVISION

13. Under reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 November 2000, there was submitted a report dated 15 December 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 23 November 2000; (3) advising that, since that date, the Council had received notification of three new redundancy situations, and (4) recommending appropriate action.

Decided: that the report be noted.

REMIT FROM HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 29 NOVEMBER 2000 - INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL LEASES

14. Under reference to paragraph 28 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Property Services Committee held on 29 November 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 November 2000 by the Director of Housing and Property Services detailing, in the Appendix to the report, industrial and commercial property leases which had been approved during the period from 1 May to 30 September 2000.

Decided: that the report be noted.

REMIT FROM PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF 17 JANUARY 2001 - GARTCOSH - PROGRESS ON REGENERATION SITE AND MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

15. Under reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 17 January 2001, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 December 2000 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating the Committee on progress with regard to the development of the Gartcosh Regeneration Site and the Multi-Modal Transport Interchange; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) summarising the funding applications, and (4) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that site visits be undertaken to the former Gartcosh and Ravenscraig Works and Euro Central sites to allow the Committee to view progress.

LANARKSHIRE ECONOMIC FORUM - CONSULTATION EXERCISE

16. There was submitted a report dated 25 January 2001 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) providing the Committee with a progress report on the work undertaken on the formation of a Lanarkshire Economic Forum; (2) summarising the background relative thereto; (3) advising that, following guidelines for the setting up of the Forums being issued and the requirement that comments thereon be submitted by the end of January 2001, a joint response, a copy of which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been sent to the Scottish Executive; (4) detailing the proposed operation of the Forum; (5) indicating that discussions were currently ongoing with regard to membership of the Forum, the preferred option being that of a core membership supported by a wider membership inputting into the specific task working groups as identified in Appendix 2 to the report, and (6) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that the draft response forwarded to the Scottish Executive on behalf of North and South Lanarkshire Councils and Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire be homologated.

The Convener, being of the opinion that the following item of business was relevant, competent and urgent, authorised its consideration in view of the timescale involved.

NEW DEAL 25 PLUS

17. There was submitted a report (docketed and tabled) dated 25 January 2001 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) seeking approval for the submission, on behalf of a consortium led by the Council, of an application to tender for the New Deal 25 Plus contract to cover North Lanarkshire; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) indicating that the contract would operate during the period between April 2001 and March 2004; (4) intimating that invitations to tender for the contract were required to be submitted to the Employment Service by 14 February 2001; (5) advising that ongoing discussions were being held with specific Council Departments and external organisations who would form part of the consortium and with those Council Departments who would require to be consulted in connection with legal, financial and staffing requirements relating to the submission of the tender documents, and (6) recommending appropriate action.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Planning and Environment be authorised to submit a tender on behalf of the Council and the consortium to operate the New Deal 25 Plus contract within North Lanarkshire;
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Environment be instructed to submit a further report to the Committee on the outcome of the tender process and the operational arrangements put in place to deliver the contract, and

(3) that the report be otherwise noted.