

AGENDA ITEM No. 4
NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

To: COATBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: GOOD NEWS
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Date: 25 August 2003	Ref: PJ/LMcM/JP

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to advise committee of some of the various 'good news' stories within the Department.

2.0 GOOD NEWS ITEMS

2.1 The department reached the last 5 in a national award held in London by the office of public manager on 18 June.

2.2 Grounds Maintenance & Estates Section

2.2.1 Exam success for managers and supervisors

Five managers and supervisors have completed the National Enterprise Board of Supervision (NEBS) certificate in Supervisory Management. Gordon Bruce, John Cox, Jim MacLeod, Graham Davidson and John Stewart studied areas as diverse as information handling & communications and management of staff, finance, products and services. The staff are now hard at work putting their new skills into practice for the benefit of the service.

2.2.2 Work begins on North Lanarkshire's first-ever crematorium

Work to construct North Lanarkshire's first-ever crematorium is underway and contractors have moved on-site. Plans to establish the crematorium have been ongoing for around three years. The partnership approach adopted for this £2.2 million project means that the Council will build the facility and then lease it to partner organisation, Dignity Caring Funeral Services, who will staff and maintain the facility.

2.2.3 Extension of apprenticeship programme

The section has increased its intake of apprentices this year. Last year six apprentices appointed under the *Modern Apprenticeship Scheme*. This year will see the arrival of another six apprentices, bringing the overall total to 15. The

scheme itself allows the section to develop and increase its skills base and offers meaningful training and development for the staff involved.

2.3 Building Cleaning

2.3.1 Training initiative gets underway

Building cleaning staff are now half-way through a major training initiative on Safe Systems of Work, which involves re-training on all cleaning tasks. By the end of 2003, all building cleaning staff working within education premises will be fully trained in Safe Systems of Work. Further training will be rolled out to other sites serviced by building cleaning services in the near future.

2.4 Creative Services

2.4.1 Break Out makes successful launch

The Department's new *Break Out* brochure - a free guide to summer holiday activities for children and young people - was successfully launched across North Lanarkshire. The guide has also gone live on the Council's website and has been widely publicised in the local press.

2.5 Countryside & Landscape

2.5.1 World's biggest rowing event comes to North Lanarkshire

Strathclyde Country Park has been named as the venue which will play host to the next FISA World Masters Regatta in 2005. The Park can expect to host over 3,000 competitors from some 40 countries - and more than 1,000 crews will take part. The course will be upgraded in time for the Masters; notably the extension of the 2000m course from six racing lanes to 8 lanes.

2.5.2 Drumpellier gets its three stars

Drumpellier Country Park has been granted a coveted 3-star Visitor Attraction Award by Visit Scotland. It was previously classified as an "Approved" attraction, and this announcement heralds vast improvements since the last inspection by the tourism agency.

2.7 Museums & Heritage

2.7.1 Lottery grant for Summerlee development plan

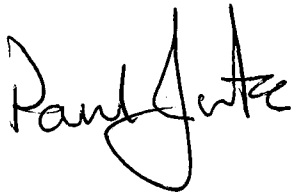
Summerlee Heritage Park has been awarded a £50,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help develop plans for its main exhibition hall. The exhibition hall is the central feature of the park, but has not been upgraded since its opening in 1987. The development planning grant from the HLF will now allow the Council to work up fresh ideas for the hall on the area's history and industrial heritage.

2.7.2 Heritage lottery fund award for *Young Roots* project

The section has received a £25,000 award to work with the Pentagon Youth Group in Coatbridge. The *Young Roots* initiative has been set up by the Heritage Lottery Fund to encourage young people to research their heritage through local projects. This award to Coatbridge's Pentagon Youth Group will allow the young people involved to examine the history of sectarianism in the Coatbridge area, look at measures being taken to counter the problem elsewhere and to suggest ways forward. The project starts in September and will run for 12 months.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Gintie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'P'.

There are no background papers relevant to this report