

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: MOTHERWELL AREA COMMITTEE		Subject: MOTHERWELL TOWN CENTRE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 19 January 1999	Ref: S/PL/R/12/13/LB/AB	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advance the discussion the members had at the last meeting on the condition of Motherwell town centre and the need for environmental improvements. This report sets out a series of short and medium term actions which will contribute to improving the centre.

2. Sustainability Implications

- 2.1 As part of the Council's commitment to Local Agenda 21 this report requires to be assessed to highlight the likely sustainability implications of its proposals. In summary, the proposals score highly in terms of sustainability by enhancing the built environment and improving the viability of Motherwell town centre.

3. Background

- 3.1 My previous report dated 9 December 1998 highlighted the unresolved issues which my Department is facing that are contributing to the poor state of the environment in Motherwell town centre. In light of the Committee's concerns I have re-examined these issues and I have identified a number of pieces of work which could be undertaken in the short term and some which are longer term that would contribute to improving the current situation.

3.2 In the short term I propose to:

- (i) Arrange to have the furniture in the pedestrianised areas painted during the spring and will seek to have this repeated biennially;
- (ii) Establish a regular maintenance regime for the drainage within the centre and resolve the flooding problem on the amenity deck over the shops;
- (iii) Identify, in association with Motherwell Heritage Society, a suitable site for the re-erection of the Motherwell Fountain;
- (iv) Identify opportunities for improving the Christmas lights display within the centre;
- (v) Work with Leisure Services to establish a maintenance regime for landscaping on the town centre ring road;
- (vi) Re-examine the location of the recycling containers and investigate the provision of parent and child parking within the town centre car parks;

(viii) Have the chewing gum removed from the block paviers;

(ix) Demolish the dilapidated outbuildings at the rear of Hamilton Road/Muir Street.

3.3 In the medium term I propose to:

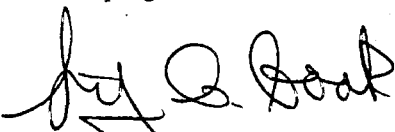
- a) Determine options for the future of the Candy Box building on Hamilton Road and the former Child Guidance Centre on West Hamilton Street,
- b) Examine the issues of disabled car parking, difficulties at the taxi rank and a location for the Dial-a-Bus service which are all associated with the car parks adjacent to Asda;
- c) Look at the introduction of a shopmobility scheme within the centre;
- d) Develop the anti-flyposting initiative in association with the Police and Town Centre Initiatives;
- e) Produce proposals for improvements to the underpasses.

3.4 In the long term the future role of Motherwell town centre in light of the proposals for a new retail centre on the Ravenscraig site will have to be determined. The current work being carried out by consultants on behalf of the Council and LDA should provide the information which will enable the full implications of the proposal on the existing centres to be evaluated.

3.5 The other long term issue relates to the future of the proposed link road which would complete the two-way operation of the ring road and the future of the land adjacent to Motherwell Point.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That the Committee considers the issues identified in this report and the proposed timescales for dealing with them and agrees that the Director of Planning & Development proceeds with the programme of works outlined and that regular update reports will be presented.



Stanley C. Cook
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Date: - 18th January 1999

For further information please contact: Lorna Bowden tel. 01698 302127.

Background paper: Report by Director of Planning to Motherwell Area Committee dated 9 December 1998.

Sustainability Checklist