
Motherwell, 12 November 1998 at 3 pm.

A Special Meeting of the **MOTHERWELL AREA COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Ross, Convener; Councillors Connelly, Scott and Wilson.

CHAIR

Councillor Ross declared a pecuniary interest in the following items of business, vacated the Chair and left the meeting, thereafter Councillor Wilson was appointed to the Chair.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer; Director of Social Work (Liaison Director); Local Officer, Chief Executive's Department.

APOLOGIES

Provost Mathieson, Councillors Craig, McLaughlin and W. Martin.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Town Centre Manager, Town Centre Initiative and Development Manager, Motherwell and District Chamber of Commerce.

SUPPORT FOR FESTIVE ACTIVITIES IN MOTHERWELL

1. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 28 October 1998 when it was agreed that it be remitted to the Chief Executive, Director of Administration and Liaison Director, after consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener, to progress specific proposals in relation to providing assistance to the Town Centre Forum to promote festive events in the Town Centre, there was submitted a report (tabled) by the Town Centre Manager, Motherwell, who spoke in relation to the report (1) advising of the possible options available for enhancing the ambience of the Town Centre in the lead up to Christmas; (2) detailing the proposed arrangements for the three Saturdays in December before Christmas, and (3) seeking funding to facilitate additional entertainment on the four trading days of the Christmas week.

The Convener then introduced the Development Manager, Motherwell and District Chamber of Commerce who advised that (1) as a result of recent approaches by the Chamber relative to the establishment of a fund to enhance the Christmas lights in the Town a number of commercial operations within the Town Centre had responded indicating that they would contribute to the fund, and (2) that a grant of £7,000 would be welcomed from North Lanarkshire Council as a contribution to the project.

The Committee then heard the Liaison Director, Chief Committee Services Officer and the Local Officer, advise (1) that no application for financial support from Motherwell and District Chamber of Commerce had been received; (2) the current policy of the Council restricts a maximum award to £1,500 for any one application; (3) that in terms of the Council's Scheme of Administration this Committee could authorise financial assistance from the Community Grants budget only within the parameters of the Council's policy and, in particular, with the Community Grants Scheme approved by the Council, and (4) that it was outwith the powers of the Committee to grant the assistance sought.

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Decided:

- (1) that Motherwell and District Chamber of Commerce be advised that the Committee, for its interest, would recommend support for an application for funding in the region of £7,000;
- (2) that in the event of an application being received from the Motherwell and District Chamber of Commerce in relation to its efforts to raise funds towards enhancing the Christmas lights at the Town Centre the matter be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee to consider an award of £6,900 being the remaining balance of the Motherwell Challenge Initiative Budget it being noted that such an award was not in accordance with current Council policy, and
- (3) that it be recommended that, if necessary, a special meeting of the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee be convened to consider this matter.

COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME - SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS

2. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 28 October 1998, there was submitted a report (tabled) by the Chief Executive detailing an application for a Community Grant.

Decided: that the application for a Community Grant be dealt with as follows:-

Group:	Motherwell Town Centre Management Group - CG98/99-264
Purpose of Application:	To assist with the costs of general Christmas promotions in support of festive trading in Motherwell Town Centre.
Grant Requested:	£1,500
Decision:	that £1,500 be awarded from the Motherwell Challenge Funding Initiative Budget.