

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL MEETING – 28 FEBRUARY 2008**

#### **APPOINTMENTS TO OPENCAST COAL LIAISON COMMITTEES**

##### **Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.1** The purpose of this report is to invite Council to consider Elected Member representation at opencast coal Liaison Committee meetings.

**1.2** The opencast coal sites in question are:-

- i) Greenburn OCCS by New Cumnock (Ward 8) which was previously attended by Ex-Councillor Jimmy Carmichael, as Local Member, before he retired.
- ii) Grievehill OCCS by New Cumnock (Ward 8) which was previously attended by Ex-Councillor Jimmy Carmichael, as Local Member, before he retired.
- iii) House of Water OCCS by New Cumnock (Ward 8) which was previously attended by Ex-Councillor Jimmy Carmichael, as Local Member, before he retired.
- iv) Laigh Glenmuir OCCS by Logan (Ward 7) is a relatively new site and the Committee have now requested representation from the Council; and
- v) Powharnal OCCS by Muirkirk (Ward 7) is normally attended by Councillor Jimmy Kelly, following on from past practice as the Local Member for that area.

**1.3** The Statutory Council meeting on 17 May 2007 appointed Elected Members to the following opencast coal Liaison Committees:-

- i) Chalmerston North/Pennyvenie OCCS by Dalmellington (Ward 9) – Councillor Drew Filson
- ii) Spireslack OCCS by Muirkirk (Ward 7) – Councillor Jim Roberts
- iii) Skares Road OCCS by Skares (Ward 8) – Councillor Kathy Morrice

### **2. OPENCAST LIAISON COMMITTEES**

**2.1** Policy MIN 37 of the East Ayrshire Opencast Coal Subject Plan provides that the Council may require potential opencast developers to constitute, by legal agreement, formal Liaison Committees with representatives of the local communities directly affected by any proposed opencast coal operation. This allows the Committee to identify and resolve any potential conflict associated

with the development and to provide a forum through which relevant issues can be discussed. Liaison Committees are not empowered to act on behalf of the Council in relation to any matter falling within the scope of the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations and other planning legislation.

**2.2** The Liaison Committee meetings provide a good opportunity for the above parties to meet and discuss on a regular basis issues pertaining to the particular opencast coal site in question. For example:-

- i) Site progress & operations
- ii) Site restoration and timescales involved
- iii) Environmental issues
- iv) Conservation Management Plans; and
- v) Details of any future proposals relevant to the site

### **3. FINANCIAL/POLICY/COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

**3.1** None arising directly from this report.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** None arising directly from this report.

### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

**5.1** It is recommended that the Council appoint an Elected Member from Ward 8 (Cumnock & New Cumnock) to attend the Liaison Committee meetings for Greenburn, Grievehill and House of Water opencast coal sites; and an Elected Member from Ward 7 (Ballochmyle) to attend the Liaison Committee meetings for Laigh Glenmuir and Powharnal opencast coal sites.

**Elizabeth Morton**  
**Depute Chief Executive/  
 Executive Director of Corporate Support**

CG/HM  
 February 2008

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. East Ayrshire Opencast Coal Subject Plan

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Colin Graham, Minerals Officer on 01563 555482.

**Implementation Officer: Dave Morris**