

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL - 26 JUNE 2008

CUMNOCK TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

NOMINATIONS TO CUMNOCK TOWN CENTRE LIAISON FORUM

Report by Depute Chief Executive/ Executive Director of Corporate Support

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To seek the approval of the Council to amend its appointment of Elected Members to serve on the Cumnock Town Centre Liaison Forum.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At its meeting on 21 June 2007, the Council approved the establishment of a formal consultation mechanism with the business community in Cumnock, relative to the Town Centre Regeneration Project.

- 2.2** The Council agreed that the Forum should have a membership of 12 people, comprising 8 representatives of the local business community and 4 Elected Members from East Ayrshire Council, with the Forum being serviced by officers of the Department of Corporate Support (Business Development and Tourism team).

- 2.3** The Elected Members nominated by the Council were:-

Councillor Douglas Reid	- Leader of the Council
Councillor Jim Roberts	- Spokesperson for Lifelong Learning
Councillor William Crawford	- Local Member - Ward 8, Cumnock & New Cumnock
Councillor Eric Ross	- Local Member - Ward 8, Cumnock & New Cumnock

- 2.4** The Cumnock Town Centre Liaison Forum has met on 5 occasions, with all meetings being held in Cumnock. The meetings have been a useful and effective forum for the provision of project information and exchange of views and are valued by all members of the Liaison Forum.

- 2.5** At its first meeting on 25 September 2007, the Forum agreed that Marion Gilliland, the owner of a local independent business in Cumnock, should undertake the role of Chair.

3 REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE LIAISON FORUM

- 3.1** To further develop the status of the Forum and its effectiveness as a two-way means of communication on a project of strategic importance to the Council, it is suggested that the representation of East Ayrshire Council be reviewed and amended, as follows:-

3.1.1 Additional Elected Member

Increase the Council's representation by 1 Elected Member and nominate Councillor Jim Buchanan, Spokesperson for Environment and Regeneration, whose portfolio includes responsibility for the Cumnock Town Centre Regeneration Project.

3.1.2 Substitute Elected Member

To reflect a stronger local interest but also to maintain the profile of the project at Cabinet level, it is proposed that Councillor Kathy Morrice, Local Member for Ward 8, replace Councillor Jim Roberts on the Liaison Forum.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposed changes in Elected Member representation on the Cumnock Town Centre Liaison Forum enhance the Council's commitment to the achievement of this important project which is identified in both the Improving Opportunities and Improving the Environment Themes of the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

4.2 The proposed changes also ensure the implementation of the Council's commitment to effective local consultation and provide an enhanced conduit to the Council at Cabinet level.

5 LEGAL, PERSONNEL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal, personnel or financial implications.

6 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That the Council approves the revised representation on the Cumnock Town Centre Liaison Forum, as proposed at Section 3 above.

ELIZABETH MORTON

Depute Chief Executive / Executive Director of Corporate Support

16 June 2008/EM/jrs

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact JOHN SPOONER, Business Development and Tourism Manager at Council Headquarters on (57) 6143.

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