

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2009 AT 1000 HRS IN STEWARTON AREA CENTRE, AVENUE STREET, STEWARTON

PRESENT: Provost Stephanie Young and Councillors Rose-Ann Cuninghame, John MacKay, John McGhee, Helen Coffey, Maureen McKay, Tom Cook, Robert Keohone, Iain Linton, Douglas Reid, Jim Buchanan, Depute Provost John Campbell, Councillors Gordon Cree, Drew McIntyre, John Knapp, Hugh Ross, Jim Todd, Alan Brown, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Jimmy Kelly, Neil McGhee, Jim Roberts, David Shaw, Barney Menzies, Kathy Morrice, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie, Drew Filson and Moira Pirie.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management; Eddie Fraser, Head of Service: Community Care; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Economic Development; Lynne Buchanan, Communication and Customer First Manager; Craig Young, Litigation Team Leader; Hugh Melvin, Principal Planning Officer; and Julie McGarry, Administration Manager.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Willie Coffey and William Crawford.

CHAIR: Provost Stephanie Young, Chair.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

1. The Provost intimated that five formal questions had been received by the Chief Executive within the specified timescales as provided within the Standing Orders and that these formal questions would be dealt with as the last item of Council business.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

2. The Provost expressed her joy at hosting the 90th Anniversary Concert on 6 November 2009 for Combat Stress, her charity for 2009/10. The Provost advised that the money raised on the night, along with donations received and the fundraising efforts from Kilmarnock Amateur Operatic Society on the Saturday had brought the fundraising sum to just under £8,000. The Provost stated that the generosity of everyone had been very humbling and thanked everyone who had contributed so far. The Provost informed that this had been a poignant start to a weekend of Remembrance where Members had taken part in numerous services throughout East Ayrshire.

The Provost expressed her delight in welcoming representatives from Turkey and Romania to Kilmarnock as part of Skills Development "Young People Connected to Working Life". The Provost advised that unfortunately one of the partner countries, Spain, had been unable to attend, however, the partner countries were involved with helping young people prepare for working life and Skills Development staff from the Council had already visited these countries to see how they worked with them. The Provost advised that our young people had learned that our country was ahead of

our partners both in training delivery and our Colleges, which were of exceptionally high standard.

The Provost then congratulated the MEND team on their recent win at the annual MEND Best Practice Awards. In addition to being named overall winner of the Best Practice Conference, East Ayrshire had also been named Category winners in the highly sought after Sustainable Outcomes Award.

The Provost then referred to the Keep Johnnie Walker in Kilmarnock Campaign which had been nominated for an award at the Scottish Politician of the Year Awards and although the campaign had not won on the night, it had been an honour to be recognised for the award. The Provost confirmed that the Council would ensure that the matter was kept in the news as the local taskforce took forward their ongoing work.

The Provost then advised that she had attended the publicity launch of the XL Class Company at St Joseph's Academy in June and was delighted to report they had now been put forward for the Celebrating Success Award and wished them well for the event.

The Provost then congratulated the Educational and Social Services Department's Creative Minds team who had recently collected the National Music Council's Diploma of Merit for the fifth year running at a ceremony in London's Albert Hall.

Finally, the Provost informed that Ruth Tittensor had been shortlisted for the Scottish History Book of the Year from the Saltire Society for her book "From Peat Bog to Conifer Forest". The Provost had attended the launch of the book in June of this year and expressed her delight that Ruth's efforts had been recognised.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

3. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of Council held on 8 October 2009 (pages 871-879).

3.1 MATTER ARISING - PRESENTATION BY THE AREA PROCURATOR FISCAL (Item 1, Page 871, 07/12)

The Provost intimated that the Area Procurator Fiscal would now attend the Council meeting to be held on 25 March 2010.

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

4. There was submitted and noted a report (circulated) by Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of the Council.

Councillor Reid spoke to the report and Members were given the opportunity to put questions to the Leader. (A synopsis of the questions and answers, by way of information only, is shown in the Appendix to these Minutes)

Councillor Eric Ross joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

CABINET/COMMITTEE MINUTES

5. There were submitted for approval as correct records and approval of any recommendations contained therein, with the exception of the Minutes of the

Governance and Scrutiny Committee which were for noting only, Minutes of the undernoted meetings, viz:-

- 5.1 CABINET OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 (pages 860-862).**
- 5.2 SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 2 OCTOBER 2009 (pages 863-866).**
MATTER ARISING - CORRECTION TO THE MINUTE - APPLICATION NO 09/0364/FL: SCOTTISH COAL COMPANY LTD: HOUSE OF WATER OPENCAST COAL SITE, NEW CUMNOCK (Item 4.1, Page 864, 07/12)
 It was agreed to amend the Minute to reflect that Councillor Neil McGhee did not declare a non-financial interest in this matter.
- 5.3 APPEALS PANEL OF 2 AND 8 OCTOBER 2009 (pages 867-868).**
- 5.4 APPEALS PANEL OF 7 OCTOBER 2009 (pages 869-870).**
- 5.5 NORTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 9 OCTOBER 2009 (pages 880-884).**
- 5.6 APPEALS PANEL OF 20 OCTOBER 2009 (pages 885-886).**
- 5.7 CABINET OF 21 OCTOBER 2009 (pages 887-896).**
- 5.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL OF 22 OCTOBER 2009 (pages 897-901).**
- 5.9 GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 23 OCTOBER 2009 (pages 902-905) (FOR INFORMATION ONLY).**
- 5.10 SPECIAL CABINET OF 29 OCTOBER 2009 (pages 906-907).**
- 5.11 SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 30 OCTOBER 2009 (pages 908-909).**
- 5.12 CABINET OF 4 NOVEMBER 2009 (pages 910-914).**
- 5.13 APPEALS PANEL OF 5 NOVEMBER 2009 (pages 915-916).**
- 5.14 NORTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 6 NOVEMBER 2009 (pages 917-918).**
- 5.15 CENTRAL NORTH LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 10 NOVEMBER 2009 (page 919).**
- 5.16 CENTRAL SOUTH LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 10 NOVEMBER 2009 (pages 920-921).**
- 5.17 SOUTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 10 NOVEMBER 2009 (pages 922-924).**
- 5.18 NORTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 11 NOVEMBER 2009 (pages 925-926).**
- 5.19 CABINET OF 18 NOVEMBER 2009 (pages 927-933).**
- 5.20 SPECIAL SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 19 NOVEMBER 2009 (pages 934-935).**
- 5.21 GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 20 NOVEMBER 2009 (pages 936-941) (FOR INFORMATION ONLY).**

**REMIT FROM THE CABINET MEETING OF 2 DECEMBER 2009 -
A76 CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP GROUP (Item 9, Page 947, 07/12)**

6. It was agreed that East Ayrshire Council be represented at future meetings of the A76 Corridor Partnership Group meetings by Councillor Robert McDill, Spokesperson for Environment and Regeneration along with representation by one Member from each of the three Electoral Wards that the A76 passes through, namely Wards 6, 7 and 8, Members being Provost Stephanie Young, Councillor Jim Roberts and Councillor Eric Ross.

REVIEW OF THE DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE (Item 8, Page 874, 07/12)

7. There was submitted a report dated 24 November 2009 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which presented for Council's consideration (i) proposals to align Cabinet Portfolio arrangements and associated external partnerships with the Council's strategic planning arrangements as set out under the new Community Planning themes; (ii) a process to provide for greater Elected Member involvement in the development of major Council policies and strategies; and (iii) a minor amendment to the Council's Scheme of Delegation in terms of operational requirements for processing planning applications.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed Portfolio alignment as outlined under Appendix I of the report, this to be implemented with effect from the next ordinary meeting of Council on 25 March 2010, allowing the conclusion of the current budget process under the existing arrangements and bringing with it continuity of business;
- (ii) to approve the policy development consultation process for pre-identified major policy/strategic issues as outlined in paragraph 4.2.1 of the report;
- (iii) to include the Development Management Manager as one of the "Appointed Officers" along with Principal Planning Officers (who had already been identified and approved by Council) to deal with delegated applications under the Planning Etc (Scotland) Act 2006 as detailed within the Scheme of Delegation and Administration and that the Scheme of Delegation and Administration be amended accordingly;
- (iv) that the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support inform Scottish Ministers of the amendment under (iii); and
- (v) otherwise, to note the report.

CHANGES OF APPOINTMENTS

8. It was agreed, following a request from the Labour Group, to the following changes:-
- Cabinet** - Councillor Menzies to replace Councillor John McGhee
 - Governance and Scrutiny Committee** - Councillor John McGhee to replace Councillor Menzies
 - Central JCC** - Councillor Maureen McKay to replace Councillor John Knapp
 - JNC for Teachers** - Councillor Stuart Finlayson to replace Councillor John Knapp

Citizens Advice Bureau - Councillor Moira Pirie to replace Councillor Elaine Dinwoodie

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

9. There was submitted a report dated 25 November 2009 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to appraise Members of applications received in respect of membership of East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum and which recommended the appointment of the applicants and recommended termination in respect of the appointment of two members of the East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum.

It was agreed:

- (i) to appoint Rosalie McCluskey, resident of Drongan (Resident) to serve on East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum;
- (ii) to appoint the undernoted representatives and substitutes from the Young Persons Category to serve on East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum:-

Representative

Substitute

Scott Holland
Resident of Logan

Wendy McTurk
Resident of Cumnock

Kyle Stewart
Resident of Dalmellington

Marie Reid
Resident of Bellsbank;

- (iii) to terminate the appointments of Alan Stewart, licence holder and Jack Campbell, resident due to their non- attendance at Forum meetings; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**DECISION OF SPECIAL SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2009 RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATION NO
09/0478/OL: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (770 UNITS) WITH THE PROVISION
OF ASSOCIATED SHOPS, WORK PLACES, ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE,
COMMERCIAL SPACES, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE
ON LANDS AT KNOCKROON FARM, AUCHINLECK ROAD, CUMNOCK
BY THE PRINCE'S CHARITIES FOUNDATION (Item 2, Page 934, 07/12)**

10. There was submitted a report dated 27 November 2009 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which informed Council of the recommendation of the Special Southern Local Planning Committee held on 19 November 2009 regarding the above planning application and requested Council to determine the application for planning permission in principle in terms of the Scheme of Delegation on the grounds that the application proposed a major development which was significantly contrary to the Development Plan.

It was agreed to approve the application subject to the conditions indicated on the sheet attached to the report (circulated) as considered by the Local Planning Committee and that the decision notice not be issued until the Solicitor to the Council had satisfactorily concluded a formal Agreement under Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, with the applicant, not only in respect of the matters already detailed in paragraph 8.10 of the report (circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development but also in relation to the inclusion

in the Section 75 of an additional Head of Agreement establishing a Local Community Liaison Group and, that the Development Advisory Group referred to within paragraph 8.10(ii) of that report include representatives from East Ayrshire Council's Department of Educational and Social Services.

Arising from discussion, it was further agreed that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services issue a communication to all parents of school age children (Auchinleck and Cumnock area) on the decision and the various stages involved in terms of the proposed stages for the consultation on the options for future educational provision within this area.

LICENSING OF PRIVATE SECURITY CONTRACTORS

11. There was submitted a report dated 19 November 2009 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which invited Council to make a Resolution requiring that all private security contractors, whether as a principal or sub-contractor, would require to be registered by the Security Industry Authority under their Approved Contractor Scheme before they could undertake security work on behalf of the Council in any premises or on any property which was owned or operated by it.

It was agreed

- (i) to resolve that all private security contractors, whether as principal or sub-contractors, required to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority under their approved Contractor Scheme to provide security services to the Council in any premises or, on any property which was owned or operated by it;
- (ii) that in any joint ventures with external partners these conditions would also apply;
- (iii) to notify CoSLA and the Council's Community Planning Partners of this proposal with a view to promoting the adoption of similar approaches throughout the public sector; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

FORMAL QUESTIONS

12.1 QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR MAUREEN McKAY TO COUNCILLOR REID

Councillor Maureen McKay put the following question to Councillor Reid:-

"Could Councillor Douglas Reid provide me with an outline of the journeys which he anticipates will be possible, following from the introduction of the half hourly train service from Kilmarnock?"

Councillor Reid advised that as an experienced commuter he was delighted to provide information on train journeys from Kilmarnock, following the introduction of the new timetable, which he referred to at the meeting. Councillor Reid then referred to the train service leaving Kilmarnock at 7.53am, arriving at Kilmaurs 7.57am, Stewarton 8.03am, Dunlop 8.08am, Barrhead at 8.20am and Glasgow Central at 8.35am. He then referred to the previous service, if a commuter missed the 7.58am, normally the commuter would not arrive in Glasgow Central until 9.10am. However, with the new service if a commuter missed the 7.53am the 8.23am stopping at Kilmaurs, Stewarton, Dunlop and Barrhead would arrive at 9.01am. Councillor Reid

also referred to other train services under the new timetable including the 12.27pm from Kilmarnock which arrived at Glasgow Central at 1.05pm.

Councillor Reid further referred to other train services connections possible between Glasgow Central and London and also underground services within London.

A supplementary question asked by Councillor Maureen McKay was ruled not competent as it was not considered to meet the terms of Standing Order 6.3 which provided for one supplementary question for clarification of the answer given.

12.2 QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR MAUREEN MCKAY TO COUNCILLOR JOHN MACKAY (AS RELEVANT CABINET PORTFOLIO SPOKESPERSON)

Councillor Maureen McKay asked the following question:-

“Could Councillor Cuninghame outline her engagement with Barlinnie Prison across 2009?”

Councillor John MacKay, as relevant Cabinet Portfolio spokesperson then responded that since the beginning of 2009, Councillor Cuninghame submitted her apologies for the Association of Visiting Committee Meeting on Friday 6th March due to Annual Leave. The rota period 6th April to 20th April unfortunately coincided with her home carer on holiday the first week and she herself went on holiday on the 10th April so was not able to attend during that fortnight.

On 25th May the Barlinnie Visiting Committee paid a visit to HMP Kilmarnock which she attended. On Friday 12th June she attended the Association of Visiting Committees Meeting at Barlinnie. On Wednesday 5th August during her rota visit to Barlinnie she attended to the matter raised in the Visit Book which meant she spoke to a prisoner and submitted a Report in the book. On Friday 11th September she attended the Association of Visiting Committees Meeting at Barlinnie. On Friday 2nd October she attended the Association of Visiting Committees Conference at Stirling University, the theme for the conference was “Changing Times”. On Friday 27th November during her rota period and while at Barlinnie her rota colleague checked the visit book prior to the Association of Visiting Committees Meeting and reported no names had been entered during their period.

A supplementary question asked by Councillor Maureen McKay was ruled not competent as it was not considered to meet the terms of Standing Order 6.3 which provided for one supplementary question for clarification of the answer given.

12.3 QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ELAINE DINWOODIE TO COUNCILLOR KATHY MORRICE (AS RELEVANT CABINET PORTFOLIO SPOKESPERSON)

Councillor Elaine Dinwoodie then asked the following question:

“Could Councillor Morrice, at the close of 10 days of action on violence against women, outline the recent work of the Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust across East Ayrshire in 2009?”

Councillor Kathy Morrice then advised that on 25 November, White Ribbon day, an international conference was held in Ayr on behalf of the all-Ayrshire Training Consortium. The conference was addressed by Michael Kaufman, founder of the global White Ribbon campaign. East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum representatives played a key role in organising the conference which was attended by the public and voluntary sectors and, of course, survivors organisations.

The conference built on very successful seminars and work undertaken across Ayrshire, throughout the year. Further, a national pilot, to raise awareness of gender based violence within health care modules delivered by Kilmarnock College, was now underway. As part of the pilot, awareness raising activities with all students took place, including distribution of the White Ribbon Campaign materials.

Within the NHS, Ayrshire and Arran, a drama production by PACE Theatre Company on domestic abuse entitled "Look at Me" had now been presented to a wide cross-section of hospital based staff at Ayr and Crosshouse. The Council, had given a renewed focus to this important issue through our well attended and very positive Elected Members Seminar.

In terms of taking matters forward, the approach was now one which focused on violence against women and we will be establishing our Multi Agency Violence Against Women Partnership. A report on proposed arrangements, including the role of our local Zero Tolerance group, would come to Cabinet in due course.

A supplementary question asked by Councillor Elaine Dinwoodie was ruled not competent as it was not considered to meet the terms of Standing Order 6.3 which provided for one supplementary question for clarification of the answer given.

12.4 QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR NEIL MCGHEE TO COUNCILLOR JOHN MACKAY

Councillor Neil McGhee then asked the following question:

"Could the Portfolio for Community Wellbeing with specific responsibility for residential care homes advise me of their planned portfolio related visits for the month of December?"

Councillor John MacKay then responded that he had no planned visits to registered care homes in the month of December.

A supplementary question asked by Councillor Neil McGhee was ruled not competent as it was not considered to meet the terms of Standing Order 6.3 which provide for one supplementary question for clarification of the answer given.

Following intimation by the Provost, it was noted that the Head of Service: Community Care and the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management would investigate and respond to Neil McGhee regarding his concerns with the pathway at Berryknowe in Auchinleck.

12.5 QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR BARNEY MENZIES TO COUNCILLOR KATHY MORRICE (AS RELEVANT CABINET PORTFOLIO SPOKESPERSON)

Councillor Barney Menzies then put the following question to Councillor Kathy Morrice:

"Could the NHS Board representative make comment on the report on STIs for Scotland outlining how this relates to sexual health in East Ayrshire in 2008/09?"

Councillor Kathy Morrice, as relevant Cabinet Portfolio spokesperson then advised that partners in NHS Ayrshire and Arran had been acting on the information now detailed in the new publication on 24 November 2009 entitled Scotland's Sexual Health Information Reports (SSHI). The report utilised a number of different data sources to describe a wider picture of sexual health, rather than sexually transmitted infections (STIs) alone. The figures in the report firstly related to data for 2008 (with

the exception of teenage pregnancy data which was for 2007 conceptions) and were broken down to NHS Health Board areas.

The detailed analysis of the findings would be considered at a local level by the Community Health Partnership.

A supplementary question asked by Councillor Barney Menzies was ruled not competent as it was not considered to meet the terms of Standing Order 6.3 which provided for one supplementary question for clarification of the answer given.

PROVOST'S CLOSING REMARKS

- 13.** The Provost then ended the Council meeting by wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

The meeting terminated at 1235 hrs.

APPENDIX

SYNOPSIS OF QUESTIONS, POINTS AND ANSWERS ON THE REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DIAGEO (Paras 2 to 5)

Councillor Maureen McKay requested an update on the funding commitment by the Cabinet Secretary for the regeneration of Kilmarnock Town Centre following the impact of the Diageo decision to close the Kilmarnock packaging plant and sub-contract the Hurlford consolidation warehouse operations.

Councillor Reid advised that there had been a meeting of the Task Force last week at which there had been promising discussion. He confirmed that the Cabinet Secretary was willing to visit Kilmarnock and had given every indication that he was willing to assist as much as he could. Councillor Reid confirmed that he hoped to drill down at future meetings of the Task Force levels of funding support.

The Chief Executive reinforced this position and referred to a recent meeting with Diageo representatives and that the Task Force would be meeting on 4 December to progress matters.

LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUMS (Paras 9 to 14)

Councillor Maureen McKay expressed concerns regarding the level of representation from Community Representatives at the Joint Local Community Planning Forum event held with the Children and Young People's Forum in September and that there had been no clear outcomes from this event.

Councillor Reid advised that Community Representatives played an important part at the Local Community Planning Forum meetings on a voluntary basis in representing the community. Whilst noting that the Forums were in their infancy there was the opportunity to review the process to ensure continuous development of the Forums' activity and he was willing to work with all Members to support the activities of the Forums.

The Chief Executive also emphasised the importance of community engagement and to listen to feedback. The Head of Service: Community Support would be providing a report to the Chief Executive on one of the Forums in the last round and the Chief Executive would consider any required action and report back any issues relevant to Members. Councillor Cook also expressed his concern regarding the methods for reporting the outcomes of the Local Community Planning Forum events.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND THE SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT (Paras 15 to 23)

Councillor Maureen McKay referred to the commitment to keep a focussed approach to progress being made against planned outcomes in the Community Planning Partnership Single Outcome Agreement and made reference to paragraph 23 which detailed that two out of three outcomes had progressed and a third and had not progressed.

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2009/2010 (Paras 30 to 33)

Councillor Maureen McKay referred to the presentation which had been given to Cabinet members from the "critical friend" who had been appointed to review the current arrangements for health and safety management and also the commitment to refer the matter to Governance and Scrutiny for its consideration and also referred to the importance that all Members should have the opportunity to learn about this very important area of work.

Councillor Cook also highlighted the importance of this presentation to all Elected Members.

Councillor Reid agreed and echoed the importance of this presentation and that a seminar be arranged for Elected Members and Senior Officers as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive gave an assurance to factor additional presentations into the consultant's schedule.

BUDGET 2010/11 - 2012/13 OUTLINE STRATEGY (Paras 37-39)

Councillor Maureen McKay commented that she looked forward to future engagement in the budget planning process and moving forward across this area.

EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE FUNDING TO OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE GROUPS 2009/10 (Para 50)

Councillor Maureen McKay referred to the £55,000 funding to support 10 out-of-school care providers but asked if this would be substantially reduced in future years.

Councillor Linton advised that the original £55,000 was for start up costs and that it was his understanding that the service would be self-financing. The Executive Director of Educational and Social Services confirmed that he would continue to keep the level of service and funding under review.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP - PROGRESS REPORT (Paras 56 - 69)

Councillor Maureen McKay requested confirmation on when this initiative had been mainstreamed as she thought that the decision had been made outwith the last six months.

Councillor Reid indicated that he would ask officers to advise on this.

DELIVERING COMMUNITY REGENERATION (Paras 76-88)

Councillor Maureen McKay requested information on when work to the Strand building commenced and if this was outwith the last six months.

Councillor Reid responded that very good progress had been made with works to this building and also the plans to roll out the restoration of some of the town's other historic buildings under the THI initiative (Goodfellows and Tannahills). Councillor Maureen McKay welcomed the THI and CARS funding for Kilmarnock.

In response to reference made by Councillor Maureen McKay to the unsuccessful Catrine bid for funding from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund, Councillor Reid expressed his regret and disappointment. Councillor Reid confirmed that he had discussed this very good project with portfolio holders with a

view to assisting the Management Committee in any way the Council could. The Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support confirmed that the Council had within the last 24 hours received some limited feedback from the Scottish Government Division on the reasons for the rejection of the New Cumnock, Darvel and Catrine bids. The Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support confirmed that there would be further opportunity to meet with Government Officials to ascertain further reasons for the refusal of the bids. The Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support confirmed that the Head of Planning and Economic Development would continue to work with the groups.

Councillor Kelly intimated that it was important to ensure that regeneration initiatives focussed on the whole of East Ayrshire. Councillor Reid and Councillor Buchanan confirmed that the agreed Council priority was to invest in the conservation of the major towns of Kilmarnock and Cumnock.

Councillor Menzies referred to the Enquiry by Design development at Knockroon and reported that no feedback had been provided to the community. The Chief Executive advise she would revert to Members with a report by the end of 2009.

SCHOOL ESTATE (Paras 43-49)

Councillor Menzies raised concerns over the delay in the development of the School Estate within New Cumnock. He explained that this matter had been raised at the Governance and Scrutiny Committee and that he was aware of the flood prevention review but reiterated that development of a new school in New Cumnock should remain a key priority.

Councillor Reid confirmed that New Cumnock would remain a priority. The Chief Executive confirmed that the matter regarding New Cumnock Primary School had been discussed at CMT the previous day. Progress had been made with SEPA.

KICKSTART COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING BID SUBMISSION (Paras 89-91)

Councillor Maureen McKay noted that the Strategic Housing Improvement Investment Programme (SHIP) of 780 houses to be delivered during 2009/10 to 2013 period, was aspirational and was not guaranteed with only 91 in the area.

Councillor Reid explained that building Council housing was a key priority and that the initial 10 houses planned for McDonald Drive in Kilmarnock was a good start. He advised that the Council was looking at ways to accelerate the programme to find ways to mitigate the effects of the recession. He accepted that the SHIP was aspirational but that the Council had ambitious plans nonetheless.