

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2006 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Ross, Jim O'Neill, John McGhee, Brian Reeves, Douglas Reid, Drew McIntyre, Iain Linton, John Campbell, Ray Murray, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Elaine Dinwoodie and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: James Lavery, Executive Director of Development and Property Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development and Property; Alan Neish, Head of Planning, Development and Building Standards; Jim Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation; Alistair Kidd, Financial Services Manager; David Hewet and Tom Merry, Senior Policy Advisers; and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Katherine Sibbald, Audit Scotland, as observer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Maureen McKay, Stephanie Young, Isabella Macrae and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed Katherine Sibbald from Audit Scotland who was observing at the meeting.

MONITORING REPORTS

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 4 (2005)

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised of the absence rates for the Department of Development and Property Services for the quarterly period ending 31 December 2005.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2006-2007

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 28 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised of an updated Departmental Health and Safety Action Plan for 2006/2007.

EAST AYRSHIRE RACE EQUALITY SCHEME - ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 28 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which updated on the Department's implementation of the Council's Race Equality Scheme.

BUSINESS GRANTS AND LOANS: STATUS REPORT

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which informed of companies which had received financial support under the Council's Business Grants and Loans Schemes in the period from 1 June 2005 to 28 February 2006.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
TO 5 FEBRUARY 2006 (PERIOD 11)**

6. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 1 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Development and Property Services for the period ended 5 February 2006 (Period 11).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - ROADS CONTRACTS,
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE AND STREET LIGHTING TO 5 FEBRUARY 2006
(PERIOD 11)**

7. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 1 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Roads Contracts, Vehicle Maintenance and Street Lighting for the period ended 5 February 2006 (Period 11).

PLANNING ETC (SCOTLAND) BILL (Item 6, Page 1616, 03/07)

8. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised of the contents of the Planning Etc (Scotland) Bill as laid before the Scottish Parliament and to approve the comments submitted to the Parliament's Communities Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report;
- (ii) to note that the comments under each part of the Planning Bill had been forwarded to the Communities Committee of the Scottish Parliament; and
- (iii) to approve the response based on the above report already forwarded to the Communities Committee on behalf of the Council.

**SEPA POLICY ON PROVISION OF WASTE WATER DRAINAGE IN SEWERED
AREAS: A CONSULTATION PAPER**

9. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised and sought the Committee's views on a consultation paper on Scottish Environmental Protection Agency's (SEPA) policy on the provision of waste water drainage in seweraged areas, and to homologate the Officer response on the document already sent.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report;
- (ii) to approve the comments contained in the report be passed to SEPA; and

- (iii) to approve the response already sent to SEPA on behalf of the Council.

PLANNING GAIN SUPPLEMENT: A CONSULTATION (Item 7, Page 1735, 03/07)

10. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised and sought the Committee's views on a consultation paper entitled 'Planning Gain Supplement' issued by HM Treasury and the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister, and to homologate the Officer response on the document sent on 24 February 2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report and, in particular, that the Council is strongly opposed to centrally controlled planning supplements;
- (ii) to approve the comments contained in Sections 4, 5, 6 and 9 to be forwarded to the Treasury in response to the Planning Gain Supplement consultation paper; and
- (iii) to approve the response already sent to HM Treasury on behalf of the Council.

WEST OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE (Item 4, Page 1312, 03/07)

11. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised of the performance of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service in the financial year 2004/05, and which reported on the budgetary position in terms of the Code of Practice on Funding External Bodies, Following the Public Pound.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the West of Scotland Archaeology Service continued to provide a valued service;
- (ii) to approve a contribution of £13,212 for 2006/07; and
- (iii) to note that a report on projected contributions for future years would be prepared once details were available from the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR A PUBLIC TRANSPORT USERS' COMMITTEE FOR SCOTLAND

12. There was submitted a report dated 16 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised of the Scottish Executive's consultation on Proposals for a Public Transport Users' Committee for Scotland and requested the Committee to endorse the draft WESTRANS response to the Consultation.

It was agreed to endorse the draft WESTRANS response to this Consultation.

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

13. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which requested the Committee to

agree the allocation of £150,000 of the Roads revenue budget and named schemes as detailed in the report.

It was agreed to approve the allocation of the Roads revenue budget to the named schemes, as detailed in the report.

ROAD CASUALTY REDUCTION TARGETS

14. There was submitted a report dated 27 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which informed of the significant reduction in road casualties in East Ayrshire during 2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to request the Head of Administration and Legal Services to arrange for the report to be circulated for information to Local Committees, Community Councils and East Ayrshire Taxi Drivers' Association; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Carmichael joined the meeting at this point.

CAPITAL ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS: A719 WATERSIDE TRAFFIC CALMING AND SOUTHCRAIG DRIVE, KILMARNOCK, TRAFFIC CALMING - OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED ROAD HUMPS

15. There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which (a) advised of objections that had been received to Road Humps Notices being promoted for proposals for traffic calming on the A719 through Waterside and on Southcraig Drive, Kilmarnock; and (b) sought approval for the traffic calming as proposed.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the objections as detailed within the report; and
- (ii) to approve the Road Humps proposals for the A719 through Waterside, Southcraig Drive, Kilmarnock, and Inchmurrin Drive, Kilmarnock, as advertised.

RENEWAL OF LOCAL BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS 6951C: AYR-DALMELLINGTON SERVICE 52

16. There was submitted a report dated 17 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which requested the views of the Committee on the renewal of Local Bus Service Ayr to Dalmellington Service 52, Contract 6951C from 16 July 2006, and the extension of the current contract for this service, 6951B from 26 March 2006 until 15 July 2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that contract 6951C Ayr-Bellsbank (Service 52) should be awarded to Stagecoach Western Buses at a cost of £46,176 for the contract period; and
- (ii) contract 6951B - Ayr-Bellsbank (Service 52) should be extended at the current cost, which equated to £4,183.52 for the period of the extension from 26 March 2006 until 15 July 2006.

KILMARNOCK HOPPER BUS SERVICE (Item 12, Page 461, 03/07)

17. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised of the growth in passenger numbers on the Kilmarnock Hopper Bus Service.

BUSINESS PLANS

STREET LIGHTING UNIT BUSINESS PLAN (Item 18, Page 1316, 03/07)

18. There was submitted a report dated 17 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which updated on current procurement arrangements for Street Lighting maintenance and which sought approval for the Business Plan for the Street Lighting Unit for 2006-2007.

It was agreed to approve the Business Plan for the new Street Lighting Maintenance Unit within the Roads Division.

**TRANSPORT SERVICES - PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS AND
TRANSPORT SERVICES UNIT BUSINESS PLAN (Item 16, Page 1315, 03/07)**

19. There was submitted a report dated 27 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which updated on current procurement arrangements for the Transport Services Business Plan and which sought approval for the Transport Services Business Plan for 2006/2007.

It was agreed to approve the Business Plan for the Transport Services Unit for the year 2006/2007.

**PROCUREMENT OF ENGINEERING WORK AND ROADS CONTRACTS
BUSINESS PLAN (Item 17, Page 1316, 03/07)**

20. There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which informed of the projected requirement for the procurement of engineering works under the control of the Department of Development and Property Services and which recommended approval of the Business Plan for the Roads Contracts Unit as Best Value suppliers for a range of work required to be contracted by the Department.

It was agreed to approve the Business Plan for the Roads Contracts Unit for 2006/2007.

WORKING FOR FAMILIES

21. There was submitted a report dated 17 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which (a) informed of the progress made by the Working for Families Project; (b) sought approval to extend the geographical coverage of the Working for Families Project; (c) sought approval for amendments to the staffing structure of the Working for Families Project within the Department of Development and Property Services, subject to consultation with Trade Unions; and (d) sought approval to incorporate within Working for Families a proportion of the service provision currently undertaken by East Ayrshire Employment Initiative, subject to approval by the Community Planning Partnership.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made by the Working for Families Project;
- (ii) to approve the increase in geographical coverage of the Working for Families Project as detailed in the report;
- (iii) to approve the amendments to the staffing structure of the Working for Families Project, subject to Trade Union consultation, as detailed within the report; and
- (iv) to approve the incorporation of the proportion of the service provision currently undertaken by East Ayrshire Employment Initiative within the Working for Families Project as detailed within the report.

EUROPEAN UNION REGIONAL AND STATE AIDS

- 22.** There was submitted a report dated 17 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which (a) informed of the current position and highlighted issues regarding the arrangements for the delivery of European Union Regional Aid, State Aids, and Rural Development Regulation funding post 2006; and (b) sought authority for Elected Members and Officers of the Council to participate fully in the continued lobbying of the Scottish Executive, UK Government and European Institutions through the Alliance for Regional Aid and other organisations including the West of Scotland European Consortium, and the Coalfield Communities Campaign with a view to securing appropriate Regional, State Aid and Rural Development Regulation support for East Ayrshire post 2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the current position and issues regarding arrangements for the delivery of European Union Regional Aid, State Aids and Rural Development Regulation funding post 2006;
- (ii) to authorise Elected Members and Officers of the Council to participate fully in the continued lobbying of the Scottish Executive, UK Government and European Institutions through the Alliance for Regional Aid and other organisations including the West of Scotland European Consortium, the Coalfield Communities Campaign and the Local Government Rural Network with a view to securing appropriate Regional, State Aid and Rural Development Regulation Support for East Ayrshire; and
- (iii) to authorise the Executive Director of Development and Property Services to procure external advice, if required, in order to assist in the development of appropriate responses to various Government consultation exercises that will be initiated and also of related lobbying strategies.

CORE FUNDING PAYMENTS TO EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS, SUBSCRIPTIONS TO EXTERNAL BODIES AND FUNDING FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/2007

- 23.** There was submitted a report dated 17 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which sought approval to make payments to external bodies, partnerships and special projects in the financial year 2006/2007.

It was agreed to approve the payments to external partnerships and special projects in accordance with the proposals as detailed within the report.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE - REGENERATION POLICY STATEMENT

24. There was submitted a report dated 1 March 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which (a) informed of the Scottish Executive's Regeneration Policy Statement published on 28 February 2006; (b) presented initial comments on the Statement and its implications to assist with the realisation of the regeneration of East Ayrshire; and (c) recommended appropriate responses to be provided to the Statement.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the publication of the Scottish Executive's Regeneration Policy Statement;
- (ii) to welcome the inclusion of Ayrshire as one of the geographic priorities and the announcement of support to develop the proposed Town Centre Living Initiative;
- (iii) to authorise officers of the Council to work with partners to maximise the opportunities resulting from the Regeneration Policy Statement including for recognition within relevant Agency Strategies, the State Aids Review and Structural Funds Programmes; and
- (iv) to authorise officers of the Council to prepare a comprehensive Regeneration Bid to the Scottish Executive which should include project priorities, cost estimates and recommendations as to the most appropriate delivery mechanism, for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

25. There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 February 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted, as set out in Appendix I to these Minutes.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

26. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, that the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

UNITS 1-4, 7, 8 AND 9A&B, STATION ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MAUCHLINE

27. There was submitted a report dated 17 February 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which requested authority to declare surplus Units 1-4 and 9A and B Station Road, Mauchline, for the purpose of the disposal to Craftsman Cladding and 7 and 8 Station Road, Mauchline to the Chilli Group.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare Units 1-4 and Units 9A&B Station Road Industrial Estate, Mauchline, surplus to requirements for the purpose of the disposal to Craftsman Cladding; and
- (ii) to declare Units 7 and 8 Station Road Industrial Estate, Mauchline, surplus to requirements for the purpose of the disposal to the Chilli Group;
- (iii) to request that the Head of Administration and Legal Services investigate the inclusion of a condition in the disposal incorporating a right of pre-emption, in favour of the Council in the event of any future sale of the industrial units by the current tenants and that a joint report with the Executive Director of Development and Property Services be submitted to a future meeting setting out the issues in more detail;
- (iv) to authorise the Executive Director of Development and Property Services to finalise the negotiations for the sale; and
- (v) to note that disposal of these assets would result in a reduction in the rental income to Development and Property Services of £14,350 per annum and that the rental income foregone would have however to be met from within existing Development and Property Services resources in order to address the budgeting implications of the decision.

The meeting terminated at 1050 hours.

APPENDIX I**AWARDING OF CONTRACTS - DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 8
MARCH**

<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Vehicle Maintenance South Service Contract - 2006-2009	Kerr & Smith (Cumnock) Ltd., Cumnock	Schedule of Rates
A71 CRVSF Corsehill to Bellfield	W I & A Gilbert, Dalry	£426,009.00
Craigends Bridge, Armco Lining	I H Boreland (Contractors) Ltd., Crookedholm	£39,443.46
Supply and Installation of Canopy at Kilmarnock Bus Station	Commutaports Ltd., Glasgow	£44,014.00
Foregate Multi-Storey Car Park, Kilmarnock - External Refurbishment	Chemcem Scotland Ltd., Falkirk	£47,667.40
Supply, Delivery and Erection of Street Signs	National Sign Company, Glasgow	Schedule of Rates
Carriageway Screeding Strengthening	Hamilton Tarmac, Kilmarnock	£38,521.05