

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE – 25 JANUARY 2006

KILMARNOCK TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Committee consider and if acceptable endorse the Kilmarnock Town Centre Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of Development Services Committee on 20 December 2005 the Committee agreed to adopt the finalised Kilmarnock Town Centre Strategy. The Strategy is intended to help guide investment, improvements and growth to the town centre to the benefit of Kilmarnock and East Ayrshire generally. The Strategy also sets out a vision for the town centre and a programme of actions to strengthen and transform the town centre and improve all of the various functions that the town centre provides. A copy of the Strategy is available in the Members Information Point.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Strategy Document makes reference to a number of matters falling within the remit of this Committee, primarily in relation to promoting and supporting initiatives for living and working in the town centre.
- 3.2 It is now proposed to prepare an Action Plan which seeks to deliver the aims and objectives which the Strategy has identified. This Action Plan will be developed by a Project Team comprising of Officers from various Departments across the Council including Neighbourhood Services.
- 3.3 The Strategy will be firmly launched early this year and thereafter regular reports will be submitted to the Development Services Committee on progress against the Strategy.
- 3.4 At this stage Members are being requested to consider and if acceptable endorse the Strategy in so far as this Committee is concerned.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Town Centre Strategy will play a key part in delivery of the six key themes contained within the Community Plan.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Executive Director of Development and Property Services in his report to Development Services Committee commented that his Department have intimated to the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Finance and Public Reform that the Council would be preparing an Action Plan and costed programme for works for which financial support would be sought from the Scottish Executive and other external agencies. In addition the Council would utilise its own resources contained in the Regeneration and Efficiency Budget to progress the aims of the Strategy. The cost of meeting the aspirational objectives of the Strategy in so far as this Committee is concerned cannot be met from existing budgets.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee
- (i) consider and if acceptable endorse the finalised Kilmarnock Town Centre Strategy.
 - (ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

CMCA/LA
9 January 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. East Ayrshire Local Plan and Spatial Development Options Paper
2. Consultation Draft Joint Structure Plan 2025
3. Report to Development Services Committee on 20 December 2005
4. Kilmarnock Town Centre Action Plan

For further information on the contents of this report contact William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services on (01563) 576023.

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