

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2001 AT 1001 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Ross, Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey, Lillian MacLean, Drew McIntyre, Harry Wilson, John Knapp, Jim Raymond, Finlay MacLean, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Tommy Farrell, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Robert Taylor and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services/Solicitor to the Council; Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development; Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Building Control; Jim Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation; Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Officer; and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Douglas Reid, Iain Linton, Jimmy Kelly and Julie Faulds.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

MONITORING REPORTS**1.1 BUSINESS GRANTS AND LOANS SCHEME STATUS REPORT**

There was submitted and noted report dated 6 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on companies which had received financial support under the Council's Business, Grants and Loans Schemes during the period 1 October to 30 November 2001.

1.2 UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE - OCTOBER 2001

There was submitted and noted report dated 26 November 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which provided an update on unemployment levels as at October 2001 for East Ayrshire and Scotland, and at September 2001 for Wards and Local Committee areas.

1.3 BUDGET PROGRESS REPORT: DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TO 23 SEPTEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 6)

There was submitted and noted joint report dated 9 November 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Development Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and projected out-turn for the year for the Development Services Department, for the period ended 23 September 2001 (Period 6).

WEST OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

2. There was submitted report dated 6 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised on the performance of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service in the financial year 2000/01, and 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 West of Scotland Archaeology Service continued to provide a valued service;
- (ii) to note the previous agreement to maintain a 2% increase up until 2003/2003 and to agree in principle subject to future Council budget decisions to a contribution of £11,673 for the financial year 2004/05; and
- (iii) to note that the Council's funding agreement beyond April 2005 be reviewed subject to West of Scotland Archaeology Service Management Sub-Group findings.

FLOOD PREVENTION

3. There was submitted report dated 10 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for the publication of a report which was required under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 as amended.

It was agreed to approve the report and its publication to comply with the requirements of the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 as amended.

REMOVING THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF PRIME QUALITY AGRICULTURAL LAND FROM DEVELOPMENT

4. There was submitted report dated 6 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised on the Scottish Executive's Consultation Paper "Removing the Special Protection of Prime Quality Agricultural Land from Development".

It was agreed to endorse the response to the Scottish Executive as detailed in the report.

COALFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE

5. There was submitted report dated 27 November 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which requested support for the creation of a Coalfield Environmental Initiative in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, Royal Society for Protection of Birds, Scottish Wildlife Trust and Opencast Coal Operators and to agree terms of reference.

It was agreed to establish the Coalfield Environmental Initiative within the overall aims and terms of reference as detailed within the report.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES RELATING TO WEST OF SCOTLAND WATER

6. There was submitted report dated 7 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which raised awareness of recent difficulties with infrastructure provision, that had implications for developments proposed in the Local Plan and sought authority to raise the matter as appropriate.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that CoSLA, the Scottish Executive Minister with responsibilities for Planning, the Scottish Executive Minister with responsibilities for Water Authorities and Local MSP's be advised of the concerns as detailed in the report;

- (ii) that the Council work in partnership with West of Scotland Water Authority to achieve the Local Plan allocations as set out in the Finalised Local Plan with Modifications; and
- (iii) that a further report on the matter be considered by the Committee at a future meeting in tandem with the Reporter's Findings on the Local Plan Inquiry.

MUIRKIRK AND NORTH LOWTHER UPLANDS POTENTIAL SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

7. There was submitted report dated 7 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of a proposal by the Scottish Executive to classify the Muirkirk Uplands as part of a Special Protection Area (SPA).

It was agreed to authorise the Head of Planning and Building Control to respond to the Area Officer, Strathclyde and Ayrshire, Scottish Natural Heritage, in the terms as detailed in the report and specifically that the SPA should not be approved until the survey work on bird habitats around Powharnel had been completed.

CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY - NEW PROJECT, CUMNOCK

8. There was submitted and noted report dated 10 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of the successful outcome of a bid led by Development Services to secure a new data processing centre for the Child Support Agency in Cumnock as one of two new projects in Scotland.

EAST AYRSHIRE WOODLANDS

9. There was submitted report dated 10 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for the East Ayrshire Woodlands Strategy and Action Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the East Ayrshire Woodlands Strategy and Action Plan; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Raymond left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

ROADSIDE ADVERTISING

10. There was submitted report dated 3 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which recommended that the Council seek tenders for the installation of roadside advertising in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed to invite tenders for roadside advertising of a form similar to that as detailed in the report.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AUDIT 2000/2001 ROADS CONTRACTS AND OPERATIONS

11. There was submitted report dated 30 November 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised on the outcome of the 2000/2001 Performance Management and Planning (PMP) Audit of the Council's Roads Contracts and Operations Section which was carried out by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the positive outcome of the 2000/2001 PMP Audit of the unit and the implementation of an improvement action plan to address issues identified through the audit as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McIntyre left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS

- 12.** There was submitted report dated 3 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which (a) advised of the capital allocations from the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund which were ring fenced for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) Schemes; (b) updated on the studies being carried out to develop Safer Routes to School Initiatives in East Ayrshire; (c) set out recommended CWSS projects to be carried out in the current financial year and subsequent years; and (d) which advised of a bid made to the Scottish Executive for additional funding to employ a temporary Child Pedestrian Training Scheme Co-ordinator.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the increased capital allocation from the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund which was ring-fenced for Cycling, Walking and Safer Street Schemes;
- (ii) that the Head of Roads would work in partnership with Officials of the Council, Schools, School Boards, Police and other Agencies to promote Safer Routes to School Initiatives in the Schools as detailed in the report;
- (iii) to approve the implementation of the programme of Mass Action Plan measures as detailed in the report;
- (iv) to approve the programme of traffic calming/speed reduction schemes as detailed in the report for implementation during the next two financial years;
- (v) to note that an application had been submitted for grant aid to employ a Child Pedestrian Training Scheme Co-ordinator;
- (vi) to note that a report would be submitted to a future Committee setting out a programme of surveys of all Schools in East Ayrshire to be undertaken over the next three years; and
- (vii) to request that a joint report by the Director of Development Services, Director of Educational and Social Services, in consultation with Strathclyde Police, be submitted to a future meeting on the potential for introducing 20 mph restricted speed zones outside all Primary and Secondary Schools in East Ayrshire.

WINTER MAINTENANCE REVIEW

- 13.** There was submitted report dated 3 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed on the results of a customer questionnaire and improvements made in the Winter Maintenance Service, and which sought approval of the principles of a heavy snow response plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the Winter Maintenance Questionnaire;

- (ii) to approve the principles of a heavy snow response plan as detailed in the report; and
- (iii) to request that the Director of Development Services consult with Dumfries and Galloway Council regarding the strategic nature of keeping the A713 clear of snow.

Councillor McIntyre re-joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

2002/2003 PROGRAMME OF STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND FOOTWAYS

14. There was submitted report dated 10 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval of the 2002/2003 programme of structural maintenance of roads and footways.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the programme of inescapable schemes for the structural maintenance of roads and footways as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) to refer the options to Local Committees.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT BID 2002/2003

15. There was submitted report dated 13 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the outcome of this year's application to the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund in respect of the Kilmarnock Town Centre Action Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the significant increase in the Council's capital allocation from the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund to assist with the implementation of the Kilmarnock Town Centre Action Plan;
- (ii) to seek further clarification from the Minister for Transport on those aspects of the bid which were not successful; and
- (iii) to approve the proposals for future Public Transport Fund bids as detailed in the report.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

16. There was submitted and noted report dated 5 December 2001 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources providing for information, details of tenders which have been accepted in terms of the undernoted Department of Development Services contracts:-

<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Kilmarnock Cycle and Pedestrian Facilities - Red Textured Surfacing Phase 2	Marcon Limited, Glenboig	£43,128.00
Resurfacing A70 Muirkirk	Barr Ltd., Ayr	£40,085.59
London Road, Kilmarnock - Relighting Phase 1	Lightways (Contractors) Ltd., Larbert	£24,669.88

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

17. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, 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 the appropriate Paragraph of Schedule 7A of the Act.

FUNDING REQUEST - CATRINE PROJECT (PARA 6)

18. There was submitted report dated 11 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of a further development proposal in respect of a Catrine project and which sought approval for East Ayrshire Council to give initial financial support to the project.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the making of a loan in support of the Catrine project on the terms and conditions as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) that the Director of Development Services report back to a future meeting for any approval of conversion of the loan to a grant which may be appropriate in the future.

FUNDING REQUEST - PATNA PROJECT (PARA 6)

19. There was submitted report dated 10 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for a funding request in respect of a Patna project to expand their trading activities by acquiring a former textile manufacturing plant at Patna which would support 35 new jobs initially.

It was agreed to provide grant funding up to a maximum of £35,000 subject to the terms and conditions set out in the report.

FUNDING REQUEST - AUCHINLECK COMPANY (PARA 6)

20. There was submitted report dated 11 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for a funding request from an Auchinleck company in respect of a major expansion preserving 69 existing jobs and supporting 35 plus new jobs.

It was agreed to provide funding in the form of a training grant, to a maximum of £100,000, up to £50,000 thereof being provided within the 2001/02 financial year with the remaining balance of up to £50,000 being provided in 2002/03 and subject to the terms and conditions detailed in the report, including confirmation that all other elements of the overall proposed funding package are in place prior to any payment of the training grant being made.

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF FACTORY UNITS AND LAND AT BARONY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, AUCHINLECK (PARA 9)

21. There was submitted report dated 11 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which requested to declare surplus to requirements factory units 1, 2 and 3 together with adjoining land at Barony Road Industrial Estate, Auchinleck.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare the factory units 1, 2 and 3 together with adjoining land at Barony Road Industrial Estate, Auchinleck, surplus to requirements for disposal to Barony Universal Products Plc; and
- (ii) that it be remitted to the Director of Development Services to submit a future report to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee seeking approval of the proposed terms of such disposal following appropriate negotiations with Barony Universal Products Plc.

BUDGET PROGRESS REPORT: VEHICLE MAINTENANCE DSO TRADING SERVICES TO 23 SEPTEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 6) (PARA 6)

22. There was submitted and noted joint report dated 8 November 2001 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Development Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Vehicle Maintenance DSO - Trading Services for the period ended 23 September 2001 (Period 6).

BUDGET PROGRESS REPORT: ROADS DLO - TRADING SERVICES TO 23 SEPTEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 6) (PARA 6)

23. There was submitted joint report dated 8 November 2001 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Development Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Roads DLO - Trading Services for the period ended 23 September 2001 (Period 6).

The meeting terminated at 1137 hours.

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