

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2002 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Ross, Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey, Douglas Reid, Lilian MacLean, Iain Linton, John Knapp, Jim Raymond, Finlay MacLean, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Julie Faulds, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillor 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; Chris Johnston, Financial Services Manager; Karen McLeod, Solicitor; Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Officer; and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Harry Wilson and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

MONITORING REPORTS

1.1 BUSINESS, GRANTS AND LOAN SCHEME STATUS REPORT

There was submitted and noted a report dated 28 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on companies which had received financial support under the Council's Business, Grants and Loans Schemes in the period from 1 December 2001 to 31 March 2002.

1.2 UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE

There was submitted and noted a report dated 28 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which provided an update on unemployment levels as at January 2002 for East Ayrshire and Scotland, and at December 2001 for Wards and Local Committee areas.

1.3 EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL PLAN 1999 TO 2002 - REVIEW OF SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES

There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which reviewed the Council's business support and development activities, in the context of the Council Plan 1999/2002.

1.4 ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 4 (2001)

There was submitted and noted a report dated 4 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of absence rates for the Department of Development Services for the quarterly period ended 31 December 2001.

1.5 BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TO 16 DECEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 9)

There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 1 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Development Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Development Services Department, for the period ended 16 December 2001 (Period 9).

1.6 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION AND BUILDING CONTROL 1 APRIL 2001 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2001

There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which presented a statistical analysis of the Development Promotion and Building Control functions over the identified period.

1.7 APPEAL DECISIONS 1 JANUARY 2001 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2001

There was submitted a report dated 2 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which presented an analysis of appeal decisions received from the Scottish Executive for the above period.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the report; and
- (ii) to request the Director of Development Services to write to the Scottish Executive expressing the Committee's concern at the operation of the pilot scheme applying listed building controls to churches in ecclesiastical use and the fact that the decision making body was the Church of Scotland in the Henderson Church Appeal, who were able to overturn the decision of the Central Local Planning Committee that the proposal was unacceptable.

1.8 MONITORING OF PUBLIC UTILITY REINSTATEMENTS

There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of the performance of Public Utilities in reinstating road openings.

FACILITIES AT PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

2. There was submitted a report dated 25 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which updated on a review of facilities for the disabled at pedestrian crossing points within Kilmarnock Town Centre and recommended a commitment to a programme of continuous upgrading of crossing points throughout East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that 10 crossings would be upgraded within the Public Transport Funds improvements; and
- (ii) to allocate £10,000 per annum from the Council's Capital Programme allocation for road safety measures and to provide improved crossing facilities for people with a disability based on the priorities as detailed within the report.

GRANTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS 2002/2003

3. There was submitted a report dated 5 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought Committee approval for grants to external bodies for 2002/03.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the grants to other bodies for 2002/2003 as detailed within the report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Development Services to make minor adjustments reflecting the basis on which grants have previously been agreed.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2002-2003

4. There was submitted a report dated 27 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which recommended a Capital Programme 2002/03 for expenditure within the Committee's capital allocation.

It was agreed to approve the capital allocations as detailed within the report.

STRATHCLYDE CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEMES

5. There was submitted a report dated 6 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which recommended that the Committee endorsed the view taken by the Joint Committee which oversees the Strathclyde Concessionary Fares Scheme in relation to the introduction of free travel on buses from October 2002.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the decision of the Strathclyde Concessionary Fare Scheme Joint Committee not to implement free travel concessions until further assurances that the full cost would be met by the Scottish Executive had been secured;
- (ii) to note the potential value of the introduction of free concessionary bus travel for residents in East Ayrshire; and
- (iii) to note that the cost of introducing free bus travel while maintaining the current level of benefits including rail concessions could exceed the sums currently allowed for by the Scottish Executive in setting the level of grant towards Council expenditure.

RESTORING COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

6. There was submitted a report dated 22 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services (i) which informed of the commissioning of the consultancy study through the Restoring Communities Programme to address the issue of derelict/vacant premises which hindered the regeneration of communities; and (ii) which sought approval for the establishment of a revolving fund for demolitions to support the Restoring Communities Programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the adoption of the Restoring Communities Programme within the Coalfield Area SIP to tackle the issue of derelict properties hindering regeneration as detailed within the report;

- (ii) to approve the establishment of a revolving fund for demolitions based on the principles as detailed within the report; and
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Development Services to seek the agreement of Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire to permit the Council to retain £40,000 currently due to be repaid to them from the sale of the former School at Main Street, Auchinleck, as an initial investment in the proposed fund.

Councillor Reid joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

GETTING INVOLVED IN PLANNING: CONSULTATION PAPER

7. There was submitted a report dated 25 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised on a Consultation Paper entitled "Getting Involved in Planning" which invited the views of the Council as to how people in Scotland can be more effectively involved in the Planning System.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the contents of the report; and
- (ii) to submit a copy of the report to the Scottish Executive as representing the views of East Ayrshire Council on the Consultation Paper.

Councillor Ross vacated the Chair during the above item and Councillor Smith (Vice-Chair) took the Chair. Thereafter, Councillor Ross re-joined the meeting and took the Chair.

Councillor McDill left the meeting during discussion of the above item and re-joined the meeting prior to consideration of the next item.

DRAFT REVISION OF NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY GUIDELINE 2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

8. There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the contents of the Consultative Draft Revision of NPPG 2: Economic Development; outlined how this new guidance complemented the recently revised Ayrshire Business Location Strategy and the main differences between this revised guidance and the previous guidance was also highlighted.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report; and
- (ii) that a copy of the report be sent to the Scottish Executive as the Committee's response to the draft Consultation Paper.

PARTNERSHIP ACTION FOR CONTINUING EMPLOYMENT (PACE INITIATIVE)

9. There was submitted a report dated 4 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the outcome of the review which was carried out by the Scottish Executive during 2001 of the PACE Initiative.

It was agreed that the Council should continue to provide active support to the PACE Initiative through its own services and through its support for the East Ayrshire Employment Initiative.

AYRSHIRE FILM FOCUS

10. There was submitted a report dated 5 March 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval to provide financial support to the Ayrshire Film Focus Project, on the basis of an annual contribution of £1,500 for each of the financial years 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve grant funding of £1,500 as a contribution to the public sector match funding for the Ayrshire Film Focus in the financial year 2002/2003; and
- (ii) to indicate the Committee's commitment to continue this funding in the financial years 2003/2004 and 2004/2005, subject to satisfactory outcome of projects in year 1 and budget resources being available.

M77 PROGRESS UPDATE

11. There was submitted a report dated 25 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised on current progress on the M77 Project.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the report; and
- (ii) to request that the Director of Development Services write to the Scottish Executive expressing the Committee's concerns to expedite a decision on whether or not to construct the two south facing slip roads at the Kingswell Junction on the M77 in light of a proposal to develop a Windfarm Visitor Centre at Eaglesham and the corresponding increase in traffic usage.

WESTRANS - PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTION AND FUNDING

12. There was submitted a report dated 22 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of proposals to make Westrans a more formal structure with a Constitution and advised of future funding of Westrans.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the participation of the Council in the proposed Joint (Consultative) Committee subject to the approval of the Constitution;
- (ii) to authorise the Head of Administrative and Legal Services to agree the proposed Constitution on behalf of the Council subject to such minor amendments as were considered appropriate and were consistent with the principles detailed within the report; and
- (iii) to approve the contribution for 2002/03 of £2,670 towards the initial proposed budget for the Joint Committee of £50,000.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE PUBLIC UTILITIES CONSULTATION

13. There was submitted a report dated 12 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval of responses to the Scottish Executive consultation on reducing disruption from public utilities roadworks which had been submitted to the Scottish Executive to meet the consultation deadline.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the response to the Scottish Executive's consultation on reducing disruption from public utilities roadworks as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) to request the Director of Development Services to write to CoSLA to promote changes in the statutory provisions relating to roadworks undertaken by utilities.

Councillor Linton left the meeting at this point.

THE SCOTTISH ROAD MAINTENANCE CONDITION SURVEY

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 22 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which recommended participation in the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey organised by the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS).

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the requirements to undertake Road Maintenance Condition Surveys for calculating the new proposed Performance Indicator to measure residual life of carriageways;
- (ii) to approve participation in the proposed Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey being organised by the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland; and
- (iii) to authorise the Head of Administrative and Legal Services to enter into a Legal Agreement with the other Councils involved in the project.

COST RECOVERY SYSTEM FOR SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT

- 15.** There was submitted report dated 25 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the progress of the Operational Case for speed camera locations within East Ayrshire for inclusion in the first phase of the roll-out of the programme of the joint scheme; and requested the Committee to agree to the Council's participation in the Scheme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress of the Operational Case for the deployment of speed cameras under the Cost Recovery Scheme; and
- (ii) to approve the Council's participation in the Scheme.

DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING BADGE SCHEME (BLUE BADGE SCHEME)

- 16.** There was submitted a report dated 25 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions review of the issues relating to the Blue Badge Parking Scheme for Disabled People; and which requested the Committee to authorise the Director to respond to recommendations in the review as detailed in the report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed responses on the Roads related issues, as detailed within the report; and
- (ii) to note that the Department of Educational and Social Services had been consulted and would be responding to the Department of Transport, Local

Government and Regions on issues affecting their service in relation to the review paper.

EXTRA MAINTENANCE FUNDING

17. There was submitted a report dated 26 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of an additional allocation of funding by the Scottish Executive for repairs and maintenance on local roads and bridges in the Council area.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that £300,000 of the additional funds should be allocated to permanent patching of heavily damaged and well used carriageways; and
- (ii) to note that a further report on priorities for the remaining funds would be submitted to the Committee once a protocol for carrying out rail/road risk assessments had been published.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

18. There was submitted a report dated 25 February 2002 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which provided details of tenders which had been accepted in terms of the undernoted Department of Development Services' contracts:-

<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Patching 3 North Area	Lightways Contracts Ltd, Larbert	£39,753.99
Footways Works - Dalmellington, Bellsbank and Patna	Wallace Dick & Sons, Darvel	£22,053.60
Minor Flood Works Contract 2001/2002	I H Borland, Kilmarnock	£22,158.28
Onthank Phase 1, Kilmarnock, Better Neighbourhoods	J J Boyle, Edinburgh	£57,436.00
Shortlees Phase 1, Kilmarnock, Better Neighbourhoods	Infrastructure Services Ltd., Dundonald	£48,352.90
Longpark Phase 2, Kilmarnock, Better Neighbourhoods	J J Boyle, Edinburgh	£26,116.00

<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Proposed Clock Tower, Well Road, Auchinleck	Land Engineering, Fenwick	£30,922.50
Supply and Delivery of One Mobile Workshop	Verve Van Centre, Glasgow	£23,491.00
Supply and Delivery of One 4 x 4 Three Door Van	Arnold Clark Automobiles, Kilmarnock	£12,578.00

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

19. 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.

REPORT ON 6-38 JOHN FINNIE STREET, KILMARNOCK; 12-14 AND 24-26 STRAND STREET, KILMARNOCK AND 1-5 DUNLOP STREET, KILMARNOCK (PARA 6) (Item 20, Page 1898, 99/02)

20. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 7 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Homes and Technical Services and the Director of Development Services which informed of the current position in respect of the proposals at 6-38 John Finnie Street, 12-14 and 24-26 Strand Street and 1-5 Dunlop Street, Kilmarnock, for the redevelopment of the site, details which were reported to the Development Services Committee on 23 May 2001.

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

APPLICATION FOR LOAN AND GRANT FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM A DALMELLINGTON COMPANY (PARA 6)

21. There was submitted a report dated 28 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval to make loan and grant funding available to support the development of a Dalmellington Company.

It was agreed to approve loan funding of £3,000 and grant funding of £2,000 to support the development of the Dalmellington Company.

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

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - VEHICLE MAINTENANCE DSO TRADING SERVICES TO 16 DECEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 9) (PARA 6)

22. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 11 February 2002 (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 16 December 2001 (Period 9).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - ROADS DLO - TRADING
SERVICES TO 16 DECEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 9) (PARA 6)**

23. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 11 February 2002 (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 16 December 2001 (Period 9).

The meeting terminated at 1142 hours.

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