

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 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, Drew McIntyre, Harry Wilson, John Knapp, Jim Raymond, Finlay MacLean, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Julie Faulds, Elaine Stewart and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; 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; John Lilley, Principal Planner (Policy); Karen McLeod, Solicitor; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer; and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Provost Jimmy Boyd.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

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

There was submitted and noted a report dated 9 August 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 1 May 2002 to 31 July 2002.

1.2 UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE - JUNE 2002

There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on unemployment levels as at June 2002 for East Ayrshire and Scotland and also for East Ayrshire wards and Local Committee areas.

1.3 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION AND BUILDING CONTROL: 1 OCTOBER 2001 - 31 MARCH 2002

There was submitted a report dated 20 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which presented a statistical analysis of the Development Promotion and Building Control functions for the identified period plus a comparative analysis with other Planning Authorities as set out in the 4th Annual Audit Report by the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report; and
- (ii) to further note that the Director of Development Services would review staff recruitment and retention and measures necessary to deliver improved performance in terms of the statutory performance indicators whilst maintaining current standards of quality and accountability.

1.4 APPEAL DECISIONS: 1 OCTOBER - 31 JULY 2002

There was submitted and noted a report dated 21 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which presented an analysis of Appeal Decisions received from the Scottish Executive for the above period.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) BILL

2. There was submitted a report dated 13 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which recommended that the Council support an amendment being submitted by CoSLA to the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Bill currently being scrutinised by the Transport and Environment Committee of the Scottish Parliament.

It was agreed to support the amendments, detailed in the report, being proposed by CoSLA to the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Bill currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament.

THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

3. There was submitted a report dated 7 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which (a) informed of the National Consultation Exercise being undertaken by the Department of Transport and the Scottish Executive regarding the Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom; (b) outlined the key issues identified within the consultation document; (c) highlighted some of the specific issues that related to Prestwick Airport; and (d) recommended a process for the preparation of an appropriate detailed response.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the position regarding the National Consultation on the Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom; and
- (ii) to approve the process for preparing an appropriate response as detailed within the report.

REVIEW OF AREA TOURIST BOARDS

4. There was submitted a report dated 22 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which requested the Committee to take a view on the current consultation programme from the Scottish Executive on the future role of Area Tourist Boards (ATB) and related matters.

It was agreed to support the CoSLA and the Scottish Local Authority Economic Development Tourism Sub-Group report subject to the additional comments as detailed within the report.

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

AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC FORUM "A STRATEGY FOR AYRSHIRE"

5. There was submitted a report dated 8 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services (a) which informed the Committee of (i) the work that had been undertaken to date through the Ayrshire Economic Forum regarding development of "A Strategy for Ayrshire"; and (ii) how the Ayrshire Economic Forum proposed to develop and deliver the Strategy; and (b) which sought approval for the

respective Officers of East Ayrshire Council to continue to support the development and realisation of the Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the current position regarding the development of a Strategy for Ayrshire under the auspices of Ayrshire Economic Forum;
- (ii) to support the Outline Action Plan for Economic Development as detailed in the report; and
- (iii) to approve the continued Officer support for the development of the Strategy.

REPORT OF LOCAL PLAN INQUIRY INTO UNRESOLVED OBJECTIONS TO THE EAST AYRSHIRE OPENCAST COAL SUBJECT PLAN

6. There was submitted a report dated 26 July 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which (i) informed of the conclusions and recommendations made by the Inquiry Reporter, following his consideration of unresolved objections to the East Ayrshire Opencast Coal Subject Plan at the Local Plan Inquiry; (ii) presented to the Committee for consideration a Schedule of Recommendations made by the Reporter; (iii) sought approval for a Schedule of Modifications which it is recommended the Council makes to the Subject Plan in order to meet the Reporter's recommendations; and (iv) also sought adoption of a series of modified policies as a basis for the determination of all future opencast coal planning applications.

Councillor Jackson arrived during discussion of the above item.

Councillor McDill, seconded by Councillor Faulds, moved continuation of the report to allow a Seminar for Members to be held.

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved as an amendment, to consider the report as submitted.

On a division by a show of hands, the amendment was carried by 10 votes to 9.

Councillor Faulds, seconded by Councillor McDill, moved as a motion that the report be refused on the basis of a number of concerns, in particular (i) that the definition of a community to be a cluster of 3 houses in the countryside rather than 10 houses as detailed in the report; (ii) that the distance to a boundary of an opencast site be increased to 800m rather than the 500m as detailed within the report; and (iii) that no working be permitted outwith the potential area of extraction.

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved as an amendment:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Inquiry Reporter's report;
- (ii) to approve the suggested Council's response to the Recommendations by the Reporter, as detailed in Annex 1 to this report;
- (iii) to recommend to Council, approval of the Schedule of Modifications as detailed in Annex 2 of this report and to authorise the Head of Planning and Building Control to advertise the modifications detailed in the Schedule of Modifications for objection, as required by statute;
- (iv) to recommend adoption of the modified policies, as detailed in Annex 3 of this report as a basis for the determination of future Opencast Coal Planning applications lodged with the Council for determination; and

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- (v) thereafter, to progress the Subject Plan to adoption through the statutory process.

On a division by a show of hands, there were 9 votes for the motion and 9 votes for the amendment. There being an equality of votes, the Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of the amendment.

PROVISION OF A MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA - M77

7. There was submitted a report dated 26 July 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of the current position regarding the provision of a motorway service area on the upgraded M77 between Kilmarnock and Glasgow, as contained in the East Ayrshire Local Plan Finalised Version with Modifications, the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan and the Finalised East Renfrewshire Local Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to the action taken by the Head of Planning and Building Control in lodging an objection on behalf of the Council to the proposal by East Renfrewshire Council to maintain its policy support for a Motorway Service Area at the junction of the M77/Glasgow South Orbital Route in the East Renfrewshire Local Plan; and
- (ii) that the Director of Development Services draw the concerns of the Council to both East Renfrewshire Council and the Scottish Executive.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE PROPOSALS "BUSINESS GATEWAY"

8. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of proposals currently being promoted by the Scottish Executive for the extension of the Small Business Gateway to operate as the "Business Gateway".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of this report; and
- (ii) to support representations by CoSLA that planning information and advice should not be brought within the scope of the Business Gateway until there had been further discussion on the services to be provided and implications for the Council.

REGENERATION STRATEGY FOR CUMNOCK TOWN CENTRE

9. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval to commission an independent consultancy review into the regeneration and redevelopment opportunities within the area of the Cumnock Town Centre, including the Glaisnock Shopping Centre and surrounding sites.

It was agreed to endorse the proposal to undertake a feasibility study and to request the Director of Development Services to report on its outcome to a future meeting of the Committee.

**PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AUDIT 2001/2002 -
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

10. There was submitted a report dated 7 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the outcome of the 2001/2002 Performance Management Planning (PMP) Audit of the Council's Economic Development Division, which was carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers on behalf of the Accounts Commission.

It was agreed to note the positive outcome of the 2001/2002 PMP Audit of the Unit and the implementation of an improvement agenda to address issues identified to the audit.

**PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AUDIT FOLLOW-UP
2001/2002 - ROADS CONTRACTS AND OPERATIONS
(Item 24, Page 2564,99/02)**

11. There was submitted a report dated 7 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the outcome of the 2001/2002 Performance Management Planning (PMP) follow-up audit for Roads Contracts and Operations.

It was agreed to note the positive outcome of the 2001/2002 PMP follow-up audit for Roads Contracts and Operations.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FINANCE BID (Item 15, Page 2561, 99/02)

12. There was submitted a report dated 14 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised that both a Full Bid and a Preparation Pool Bid had been submitted to the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund Bid for funding to start in 2003/04.

It was agreed to note that the bids for additional capital allocations had been submitted to the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund.

**MAINTENANCE OF THE A76 AND A77 TRUNK ROADS WITHIN EAST
AYRSHIRE**

13. There was submitted a report dated 8 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of the actions which had been taken by the Head of Roads and Transportation and to relay to the Scottish Executive the dissatisfaction of Elected Members with the current standard of maintenance on the Trunk Roads within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the action taken by the Scottish Executive following complaints raised by the Council about maintenance standards on the A76 and A77; and
- (ii) that the Director of Development Services report back to the Committee on further action relating to outstanding issues identified within the report, and the overall performance of the contractor based on the forthcoming report by Performance Audit Group.

A71 CENTRAL RESERVATION GUARDRAILS

14. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the situation regarding the lack of central reservation guardrails on the A71 dual carriageway; and recommended that the Committee authorise the Head of Roads and Transportation to raise the matter with the Scottish Executive, CoSLA and SCOTS.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Head of Roads and Transportation investigate the possibility of a joint approach to the Scottish Executive with other Councils, for additional funding to cover the costs of installing a central reservation guard rail on the A71;
- (ii) that the Head of Roads and Transportation seek the agreement of North Ayrshire Council for advancing a case to the Scottish Executive for the trunking of the A71 between the Bellfield Roundabout and Irvine as an extension of the A76; and
- (iii) that if agreed by North Ayrshire Council, that the Head of Roads and Transportation prepare a fully supported case for submission to the Scottish Executive.

NATIONAL CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME FOR THE BLIND

15. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services (i) which sought agreement to continue the operation of the Scottish National Concessionary Travel Scheme for Blind Persons in its current form without limit of time; and (ii) which requested the Committee to support the extension of the Scheme to include travelling companions of the blind and partially sighted, subject to the extension being cost neutral to the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to continue the operation of the Scottish National Concessionary Travel Scheme for Blind Persons in its current form without limit of time; and
- (ii) to support in principle, the extension of the Scheme to include travelling companions of the blind and partially sighted subject to full evaluation of the cost implications for the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme.

THISTLE TRAVEL CARD - SCOTLAND

16. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services (i) which informed of the launch on 3 September 2002 of a new travel card, "Thistle Travel Card" and (ii) advised that the Authority had been approached by an ENABLE representative to promote access to the Travel Card and the relevant information leaflet.

It was agreed to note that the Thistle Travel Card would be launched on 3 September 2002 and that the leaflet would be made available at Council Offices, Libraries and Social Work Offices.

**KILMARNOCK “TOP OF THE TOWN” - CONSULTATIVE REPORT
(Item 4, Page 2558, 99/02)**

17. There was submitted a report dated 21 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which (i) provided a summary of the outcome of a Consultancy Report on a Development Programme for the Kilmarnock “Top of the Town” area; (ii) sought support for the broad development principles presented in the report; and (iii) sought authorisation for the Director of Development Services to further investigate the merits of establishing a “Top of the Town” Trust to develop and realise the preferred development options as recommended in the Study and to report the outcomes of those investigations to a future meeting of the Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report;
- (ii) to support the broad development principles of the preferred option as detailed within the report;
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Development Services to proceed towards the establishment of a “Top of the Town” Trust to facilitate and lead the realisation of the preferred option and to seek a development partner or partners, subject to approval of specific actions by the appropriate Committee at appropriate stages as required; and
- (iv) to delete the word “local” from Paragraph 7.2 of the report.

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

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

18. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

FUNDING REQUEST - ORGANISATION - CATRINE

19. There was submitted a report dated 13 August 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on a funding request from an organisation in Catrine, as part of a package for the expansion of the present facilities, supporting 145 new jobs.

It was agreed to support the project, subject to the conditions as detailed within the report.

The meeting terminated at 1210 hours.