

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 AUGUST 2003 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Ross (Chair), Maureen McKay, Jim O'Neill, John McGhee, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Daniel Coffey, Douglas Reid, Drew McIntyre, Isabella Macrae, Iain Linton, John Campbell, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell; and Elaine Dinwoodie.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative & Legal Services; Alan Neish, Head of Planning & Building Control; Jim Kane, Head of Roads & Transportation; John Spooner, Business Development Manager; Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Officer; John Robertson, Senior Accountant; Colin McKee, Senior Planning Officer; and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Ray Murray and Jimmy Carmichael.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

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

There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 August 2003 (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 May 2003 to 31 July 2003.

1.2 UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE - JUNE 2003

There was submitted a report dated 14 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which provided an update on unemployment levels as at May 2003 for East Ayrshire and Scotland, and for East Ayrshire Wards and Local Committee areas.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Chair invite Des Browne MP, Minister for Work to make a presentation to a future meeting on current and future initiatives to reduce unemployment within East Ayrshire;
- (ii) that partner agencies involved in tackling unemployment in East Ayrshire especially initiatives such as the Step-Up Programme, be invited to attend and contribute to the presentation;
- (iii) to note that the Director of Development Services had confirmed that the International Labour Organisation unemployment figures did not feature in the report as they did not provide an accurate breakdown of figures by Local Committee area and ward boundaries;

- (iv) that the Director of Development Services review the basis for calculating unemployment figures for Local Committee areas and ward boundaries and report back to Committee; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the report.

1.3 ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT - QUARTER 2 (2003)

There was submitted and noted a report dated 4 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the absence rates for the Department of Development Services for the quarter period ended 30 June 2003.

1.4 STATISTICAL RETURNS TO THE ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 August 2003 (circulated) which informed of the statistical returns made to the Accounts Commission on some aspects of the performance of particular services within the Department.

1.5 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION AND BUILDING CONTROL

There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 August 2003 together with revised page 19 providing correct column headings in relation to the statistical analysis of Development Promotion (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which presented a statistical analysis of the Development Promotion and Building Control functions over the identified periods.

REVIEW OF SCHEME OF DELEGATION (Item 11, Page 1895, 99/03)

2. There was submitted a report dated 31 July 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the outcome of a review of the Scheme of Delegation and which recommended alterations that, if supported, required to be presented to Council for approval.

Councillor Eric Ross, seconded by Councillor George Smith, moved:-

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- (i) that the Scheme of Delegation be amended to allow Officer delegation in the following circumstances:-

- all applications for topping, lopping or felling of a tree covered by a TPO;
- all householder applications for fences, garages and extensions where the recommendation is in accordance with the Development Plan including the approved Design Guidance and which are subject to no more than 2 objections;
- applications where the only objection(s) received is(are) from the amenity bodies and the recommendation is in accordance with the Development Plan including the approved Design Guidance;
- applications where the recommendation is to approve partial or complete demolition of "C" Class Listed Buildings;
- extending the threshold from 5 to 10 houses for "minor developments" (eg substitution of house types) which are not subject to objections and are in accordance with the Development Plan;

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- approval or refusal of applications for mobile phone masts which are not subject to objection and where the Officer recommendation is in line with policy;
- (ii) that the Director of Development Services report back on a regular basis on the performance of these measures; and
- (iii) to refer the amendments to Council for incorporation into the Scheme of Delegation.

Councillor D Coffey, seconded by Councillor McDill, moved as an amendment to retain the status quo.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 13 votes to 5.

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

PROVISION OF A MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA: M77 (Item 7, Page 2722, 99/03)

3. There was submitted a report dated 30 July 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of the findings of the Inquiry Reporter to the East Renfrewshire Local Plan relative to an objection lodged by East Ayrshire Council and which sought the Committee's views on the modifications to the Plan proposed by East Renfrewshire Council as regards this issue.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the promoter of the Motorway Service Area for Kingswell was currently in negotiation with the Scottish Executive and not as stated within the report;
- (ii) to note the contents of the report; and
- (ii) to forward a copy of this report to East Renfrewshire Council as an objection to the inclusion of Policy T7 as modified in the East Renfrewshire Local Plan.

POLLOCK TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

4. There was submitted a report dated 31 July 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which presented the views of the Department on the development proposals for the regeneration of Pollock Town Centre submitted to Glasgow City Council under outline planning application 01.01114/DC by Retail Property Holdings.

4.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Eric Ross declared an indirect non-pecuniary interest.

4.2 Consideration of Item

It was agreed:-

- (i) to homologate the action taken by the Head of Planning and Building Control as detailed within the report; and
- (ii) that a copy of this report should be sent to Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Executive in support of this Council's formal objection to this proposed development.

**NEWMILNS TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE: UPDATE
(Item 2, Page 2965, 99/03)**

5. There was submitted a report dated 24 July 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on progress with the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative and which sought support and initial funding to prepare an application to the Lottery Fund for another Townscape Heritage Initiative in Newmilns.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made by the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative;
- (ii) to support the preparation of a further application for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funders to build on the success to date; and
- (iii) to allocate the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative £5,000 to undertake a feasibility study on the development of a business centre at 47-51 and 57-59 Main Street.

**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION
PLANS AND PROJECTS 2003/2004**

6. There was submitted a report dated 23 July 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which (a) informed of progress with the Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and outlined those projects to be implemented in 2003/2004 through the Planning & Building Control Division in conjunction with the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP); and (b) sought approval for the Policy & Projects Section in conjunction with the relevant Community Groups, to implement a range of environmental improvement projects within the East Ayrshire Coalfield SIP Area.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the programme of action plans and projects proposed this financial year as detailed within the report;
- (ii) to approve the implementation of the environmental improvement projects as detailed within the report; and
- (iii) to support the development of a Catrine Environmental Heritage Project as detailed within the report.

**PROPOSED MONUMENT AT GALSTON ROUNDABOUT
(Item 7, Page 42, 03/07)**

7. There was submitted a report dated 11 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought the Committee's views on the proposal by the Rotary Club of Loudoun for a monument on the roundabout adjacent to Galston at the intersection of the A719 and A71. The report had been updated to incorporate further comments on the issue from the Rotary Club of Loudoun, the Irvine Valley Joint Community Council's Group and Loudoun Academy School Board.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that road safety issues relating to the location had been addressed through the provision of improved safety measures as detailed within the report; and

- (ii) to grant the Rotary Club of Loudoun permission to construct the monument proposed on the roundabout central reservation at the intersection of the A719 and A71 on land owned by the Council or falling within the public road subject to conditions: (a) that in the event the location of the monument becomes a road safety issue, the monument be removed and the site reinstated at no cost to the Council; and (b) that mature thorny shrubs be planted to surround the monument and be maintained to the satisfaction of the Director of Development Services.

**QUALITY OF LIFE PROGRAMME: ADVISORY 20MPH SPEED LIMITS
(TWENTY'S PLENTY) AND LOCAL TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES
(Item 16, Page 2133, 99/03)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 11 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for Twenty's Plenty and local traffic calming schemes to be funded from the Quality of Life Programme for 2003/04.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals for the introduction of advisory 20mph speed limits at selected residential sites as detailed within the report and to add John Morton Crescent, Darvel to the programme;
- (ii) that other sites which satisfied the criteria for a Twenty's Plenty area, as detailed within the report, be considered for a future funding programme;
- (iii) to approve the implementation of traffic calming measures at Patna Primary School;
- (iv) that the Director of Development Services report back to a future meeting with an overview of the Twenty's Plenty Schemes for all Primary Schools in East Ayrshire, and that all future reports include reported accident statistics in the vicinity of Primary Schools; and
- (v) that the Director of Development Services identify the potential for enhanced signage measures to highlight 20mph zones, and examine with Strathclyde Police, the feasibility of making 20mph zones mandatory.

TARMAC JOHNSTONE SURFACING (Item 15, Page 2969, 99/03)

9. There was submitted a report dated 6 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought the Committee's approval to enter into negotiations for a single tender contract with Tarmac Johnstone Material Services for the supply and laying of a proprietary surfacing material in terms of Standing Order 10(2) of the Standing Orders relating to contracts.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that following due enquiry the Director of Development Services was satisfied that Tarmac Johnstone Material Services was the only supplier of this new material;
- (ii) to note that the Director of Development Services had confirmed that Tarmac Johnstone Material Services had completed successful operations on behalf of Glasgow City, North and South Lanarkshire Councils and that it would be appropriate to negotiate an award of the contract for the specified works to

Tarmac Johnstone Surfacing in terms of Standing Order 10(2) relating to Contracts;

- (iii) to approve negotiations for a single tender contract with Tarmac Johnstone Material Services for the surfacing of locations as detailed within the report; and
- (iv) that the Director of Development Services arrange a site visit to view the quality of the surface dressing.

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

MONITORING OF PUBLIC UTILITY REINSTATEMENTS

- 10.** There was submitted a report dated 26 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of the performance of public utilities in reinstating road openings.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the performance of public utilities in reinstating road openings;
- (ii) that the Chair write to Nicol Stephen MSP, Minister for Transport, to express the Committee's concerns about the delays to road users caused by the poor performance of utilities in reinstating road openings;
- (iii) that the Chair invite representatives of Scottish Power, Scottish Water, British Telecom and Transco to give a presentation to a future meeting on their way of working and to give members an opportunity to express the concerns of local communities on the current poor service levels; and
- (iv) to note that a further report would be submitted to the Committee on proposals for increasing the level of enforcement activity and changes in the specifications of reinstatement work and regulatory framework currently being considered by the Scottish Executive.

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

EXTENSION OF 30MPH SPEED LIMITS AT B7036 BARONY ROAD AND PENNYLANDS ROAD, AUCHINLECK AND A70 SMALLBURN ROAD AND MANSE ROAD, MUIRKIRK

- 11.** There was submitted a report dated 5 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for the extension of the existing 30mph speed limits at B7036 Barony Road, Auchinleck and introduction of a 30mph speed limit on Pennylands Road, Auchinleck, and for the A70 Smallburn Road and Manse Road, Muirkirk.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the report; and
- (ii) to approve the proposals for 30mph speed limits on the B7035 Barony Road and Pennylands Road, Auchinleck and the A70 Smallburn Road and Manse Road, Muirkirk as detailed within the report.

CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS (Item 14, Page 2854, 99/03)

12. There was submitted a report dated 11 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which (a) updated the Committee on the studies being carried out to develop Safer Routes to School Initiatives in East Ayrshire; and (b) set out recommended Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) projects to be carried out in the current financial year and subsequent years.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to implement the programme of Mass Action Plan measures as detailed within the report;
- (ii) to approve the programme of traffic calming/speed reduction schemes as detailed within the report, subject to the future availability of funding; and
- (iii) that traffic calming at St Patrick's Primary School, Auchinleck would be implemented in the current financial year.

WESTRANS - CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A CORE TEAM

13. There was submitted a report dated 11 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought (a) the agreement of the Committee to extend the membership of the West of Scotland Transport Partnership (WESTRANS) to Dumfries and Galloway; and (b) the agreement of the Committee to the establishment of a Core Team for the West of Scotland Transport Partnership (WESTRANS) as outlined in the report; and (c) authorisation for the Solicitor to the Council to enter into a supplementary Minute of Agreement on terms and conditions to be agreed and negotiated by the constituent authorities.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the membership of Dumfries and Galloway Council on the Joint Committee;
- (ii) to approve the establishment of a Core Team for WESTRANS with initially four posts as detailed within the report; and
- (iii) to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to approve and sign a supplementary Minute of Agreement.

SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE PROPOSALS AFFECTING AUCHINCROUIVE CAMPUS, AYR

14. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of (a) proposals for the rationalisation of the teaching activities of the Scottish Agricultural College, involving the transfer of higher education degree level courses to Edinburgh; and (b) the response to the proposals and alternative proposals which were being advanced by the Auchincruive Working Group.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report which represented the current situation; and
- (ii) to request the Director of Development Services to bring a further report to Committee in due course.

THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN UNION REGIONAL AID

15. There was submitted a report dated 29 July 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of the UK Government's Consultation Exercise on "A Modern Regional Policy for the United Kingdom" and the response submitted within the consultation timescale.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the undertaking of the UK Government's consultation exercise on "A Modern Regional Policy for the United Kingdom"; and
- (ii) to homologate the response prepared by Officers and sent on 4 July 2003 as detailed within the report.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION - BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS IN SCOTLAND

16. There was submitted a report dated 11 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of consultation proposals issued by the Scottish Executive for the establishment in Scotland of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and which sought the Committee's endorsement of a proposed response to the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of this report;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Development Services to respond to the Scottish Executive consultation in terms of the observations made in this report; and
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Development Services to institute discussions with local businesses on potential interest in BIDs in East Ayrshire.

2004 BRITISH OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP AT ROYAL TROON

17. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought the authority of the Committee to participate in a significant opportunity for the promotion of Ayrshire in an international context, through involvement in a joint promotional event at the 2004 British Open Golf Championship.

It was agreed to approve the principle of supporting the promotional event at the 2004 British Open Golf Championship on the basis of a direct funding contribution from East Ayrshire Council not anticipated to exceed £15,000 and which would be taken into account in the budget preparation for the Department for the 2004/2005 financial year.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

18. There was submitted a report dated 14 August 2003 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources providing, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted. The amounts shown are actual costs of the contract and are exclusive of professional fees as detailed in Appendix 1 to this Minute.

The meeting terminated at 1146 hours.

APPENDIX 1

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Successful Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Minor Floodworks Contract 2003-2004	W I & A Gilbert, Dalry	£16,615.80
Rural Ground Maintenance	W Owen & Son, Stirling	£31,550.20
*Kilmarnock Town Centre Pedestrian Safety and Access Measures: Final Design and Preparation of Contract Documentation	JMP Consultants Ltd, Glasgow	£29,000.00
Crookedholm, Riccarton, Galston Flood Prevention Scheme 2001	R J McLeod, Glasgow	£6,638,000.00
Footway Slurry Seal	Coldmac Ltd, North Lincolnshire	£23,189.63
**On-Street Parking Surveys in Kilmarnock	MVA Ltd, Glasgow	£20,700.00
Carriageway Resurfacing South Area Urban	Hillhouse Quarry Company Ltd, Troon	£37,043.55

* This tender was subject to an evaluation process, the award criteria being 70% - quality; 30% - price.

** This tender was subject to an evaluation process, the award criteria being, 60% - quality; 40% - price.