

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 25 JUNE 2003**

### **REVIEW OF AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN**

#### **Report by the Director of Development Services.**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to endorse the recent decision of the Structure Plan Joint Committee to prepare a replacement Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Current planning legislation (Town and Country Planning Act (Scotland) 1997) requires a local authority to prepare a development plan for the area comprising a structure and local plan. The current Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan was approved by the Scottish Ministers in January 2000 and provides a detailed strategic land use framework for Ayrshire to 2005
- 2.2 The Joint Structure Plan Authority propose, with the assistance of planning policy teams in all 3 Ayrshire Councils, to prepare a replacement structure plan.

#### **3 REVIEW OF STRUCTURE AND LOCAL PLAN**

- 3.1 Under current legislation the structure plan team have indicated that with a start date of July 2003, the replacement structure plan could be submitted to the Scottish Executive by early 2005.
- 3.2 The East Ayrshire Local Plan was adopted on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2003. Previous reports to this committee have outlined the process of review to keep the local plan up to date. It should be noted that the timetable envisaged for a review of the structure plan fits in well and runs parallel with the intended review of the local plan. This would enable the emerging structure plan to provide a strong strategic context for the review of the local plan.

#### **4. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLANNING**

- 4.1 As reported to committee in October 2002 the above review concluded that the statutory requirement to prepare a structure plan was to be removed from all areas of Scotland with the exception of the 4 city regions. The boundaries of these city regions have yet to be defined. Since, however, the conclusions of the review will require to be implemented through legislation there is no possibility of

the new regime being introduced by 2005, by when there will be an obligation to prepare a new Structure Plan.

- 4.2** The conclusions of the review of Strategic Planning ran counter to the council's view, as detailed in April 2001, that Ayrshire should retain a Structure Plan. The arguments in favour of retaining statutory structure planning in Ayrshire remain pertinent and it is recommended that, in conjunction with North and South Ayrshire Council, future representations are made to this end.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** All expenditure to prepare the replacement plan can be accommodated within existing budgets.

## **6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** None

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1** It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) endorse the decision of the Structure Plan Joint Committee and agree that a replacement of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan be prepared, with a timetable for approval in early 2005; and
- (b) agree to authorise the Director of Development Services to make further representations as appropriate to MSP's and Ministers to obtain their support for the retention of Ayrshire as a strategic planning unit.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**

SC/AL/JR  
12 June 2003

**FV/AN**

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

- 1. Development Services Committee Report 24<sup>th</sup> April 2001, 'A Review of Strategic Planning in Scotland';**
- 2. Development Services Committee Report 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2002, 'Review of Strategic Planning in Scotland: Conclusions and Next Steps';**

- 3. Development Services Committee Report 11<sup>th</sup> February 2003, 'East Ayrshire Local Plan Alteration and Review'; and**
- 4. Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee Report 7<sup>th</sup> March 2003, 'Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan'**

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