

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE - 19 SEPTEMBER 2000

LONGPARK IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS: PROGRESS REPORT

Joint Report by the Directors of Development Services and Homes & Technical Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to keep Members of the Committee apprised regarding the latest progress on the Longpark Improvement Proposals.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee has previously expressed the wish to be regularly informed of the progress of the Longpark Improvement Proposals and this is one of a series of such reports.

3 PROGRESS

- 3.1 Wimpey/CHA Housing - Construction commenced on the site on June 2000. The duration of the contract is 15 months and according to the contractors programme a small number of houses for rent are expected to be handed over to Cunninghame Housing Association prior to Christmas of this year.
- 3.2 The anticipated start date for the selective demolitions of empty Council blocks is 18 September 2000. These blocks are situated in Campbeltown Drive, Northcraig Road and Kirn Road.
- 3.3 There is currently an options appraisal exercise being undertaken to ascertain the future of Longpark Hostel. A technical feasibility study on future use of the building has been undertaken as has full initial consultation with the residents of the Hostel. Tenant consultation will continue throughout this exercise which is being carried out in conjunction with the Social Work Department, and a report on the outcome of the exercise will be submitted to both Service Committee's in due course.
- 3.4 There has been considerable discussion between East Ayrshire Council, Scottish Homes and Cunninghame Housing Association surrounding the detail involved in the Wider Action Survey, which will be carried out primarily in Longpark but encompassing other areas within North-West Kilmarnock. This survey will revisit the results of the Longpark questionnaire (1997/98) when a

majority of 80% of all returned questionnaires indicated a desire for full-scale demolition. There will be 100% consultation of Longpark residents within the Council stock and set against the current developments in Longpark, the feedback will either validate or invalidate the initial fundings of 1997/98. It is expected that this survey will be carried out between October – December 2000.

- 3.5 Community Complex - A contract has been let for the site investigation of the Community Complex site and a programme of 7 boreholes has now been completed and the results are in the process of being analysed. The results of the Wider Action Survey mentioned above could prefigure some of the activities to be accommodated in the Community Complex and assist in identifying potential funding sources for the project.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Wider Action Survey will be mainly funded by Cunninghame Housing Association with a contribution from East Ayrshire Council's Housing Revenue Account. The initial demolitions will be funded from the HRA Capital Account for 2000/01.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None at present.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) Notes the progress to date on the Longpark Improvement Proposals; and
 - (ii) Notes that members will be informed of future progress at regular intervals

James Lavery
Director of Homes & Technical Services

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

5 September 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Longpark Feasibility Study, May 1994 by Ann flint and Associates.
2. Kilmarnock North Local Committee 18 August 1998, Longpark Strategy - Report of the joint meeting held with Kilmarnock Central.
3. Kilmarnock North Local Committee: 25 May 1999, Progress Report on Longpark Strategy and North-West Kilmarnock Environmental Project Group. Report by the Director of Development Services.
4. Kilmarnock North Local Committee: 16 August 1999. Longpark Improvements Report by the Director of Development Services.
5. Kilmarnock and North Local Committee: 28 September 1999 - Public Meeting to discuss Longpark proposals. Report by the Director of Development Services.
6. Development Services Committee: 23 November 1999 - Longpark Improvements. Report by the Director of Development Services.
7. Kilmarnock North Local Committee: 19 January 2000 - Longpark Improvement Proposals: Progress Report. Report by Director of Development Services.

For further information please contact Chris Trevor, Development Services, on 01563 576758 or Paul McVey, Area Housing Manager, on 01563 576628.

Implementation Officers: Chris Trevor and Paul McVey

AGENDA