

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 19 FEBRUARY 2004

ANNUAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to advise of the outcome of the annual consultative meeting between East Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Community Councils held on the evening of 24 November 2003 in the Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The consultative meetings are designed to provide a vehicle for communication between the Council and Community Councils in accordance with the principles of the code of practice for Community Councils.

- 2.2** Departments of the Council and Community Councils are requested to submit issues for possible inclusion within the Agenda, which, are divided into categories headed:-

- Community Council Items
- Council items
- Joint Community Council/Council Items

- 2.3** The three categories are utilised as appropriate, depending upon the issues raised.

3. ANNUAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING: 24 NOVEMBER 2003

- 3.1** The Consultative Meeting (Appendix I) was held on the evening of Monday 24 November 2003 in the Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, when 30 Community Council members representing 17 Community Councils were in attendance.

- 3.2** The Leader and senior Officers of the Council and Community Councillors met to discuss a number of relevant issues as described in the enclosed note of the meeting.

- 3.3** The presentation on the Community Plan by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources was followed by a question and answer session during which a range of informative and pertinent comments were made by Community Council representatives, and which allowed a useful exchange of views.

4. FINANCIAL/LLEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1** The Annual Consultative Meeting was considered to be a success, building upon the diversity of subjects discussed at previous meetings and provided the opportunity for Community Councillors to raise, and put forward their points of view, in relation to issues of concern for them, as well as generally enabling the exchange of information and views between the Council and the Community Councils.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) note the outcome of the Annual Consultative Meeting (Appendix I) between East Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Community Councils held on 24 November 2003; and
- (ii) note that the issues raised at the meeting, by Community Council Representatives are either being progressed or have been dealt with.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/
Director of Corporate Resources

25 November 2003

SN/KC

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1.** East Ayrshire Council Community Council Scheme
- 2.** Correspondence with Community Councils/Community Council Representatives.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer, on (01563) 576139. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on (01563) 576135.

APPENDIX 1

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH COMMUNITY COUNCILS

NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2003 AT 1900 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Leader of the Council; 30 Community Councillors representing 17 Community Councils (Appendix A); and Councillors Maureen McKay, Stephanie Young, Isabella Macrae, Ray Murray, John Knapp, Stuart Finlayson, Tommy Farrell and William Menzies.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources; Bill Stafford, Director of Community Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; Jim Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Jim Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation; Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

1. PROGRAMME FOR MEETING

- 1.1 The programme for the Consultative Meeting consisted of an introduction and welcome by Councillor Drew McIntyre, Leader of the Council. The Chair's introduction was followed by a presentation by Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources on Community Planning in East Ayrshire.
- 1.2 The presentation was followed by a question and answer session and the meeting concluded with an open discussion/question and answer session.

2.1 PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY PLANNING IN EAST AYRSHIRE-FEEDBACK/QUESTION TIME

2.1.1 Issues and Questions raised by Community Council representatives and responded to by Council representatives in this session included:

- the availability of the Community Plan through the internet on the Council's Website, or otherwise;
- clarification on initiatives to maximise the uptake by residents of East Ayrshire of benefits to which they are entitled;
- the need to improve public transport services, particularly within rural areas;
- arrangements for the introduction of the three wheelie bin system for the collection of refuse/recyclable materials;
- joint working between East Ayrshire Council and Strathclyde Fire Brigade to address the problem of grass fires, particularly within the southern part of the Council area;
- the role of Community Councils in relation to the Community Plan;

- the possibility of information on individual Community Councils within East Ayrshire being made available on, or through, the Council's website;
- the possibility of support/assistance being made available by officers of East Ayrshire Council to Community Councils in order to promote sustainability and facilitate their operation;
- road safety issues, with emphasis on traffic calming/20mph zones particularly within the vicinity of schools; and
- confirmation on the Community Plan's recognition of the diversity of the nature of the communities within East Ayrshire and their differing respective needs and priorities.

2.2 OPEN DISCUSSION/QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

2.2.1 Issues and Questions raised by the Community Council representatives and responded to by Council representatives in this session included:-

- clarification on the sources of information utilised by East Ayrshire Council to ensure that population etc statistics remain up-to-date, bearing in mind the importance of such information as a key factor in service delivery planning;
- specific issues relating to the repair/maintenance of footways at Holmhead, Cumnock and New Cumnock;
- a general perception amongst members of the public that there is a need to promote improved levels of community safety, including through an increase in the number of Police Officers on the beat;
- difficulties being encountered by Community Councils in obtaining public liability insurance cover in respect of certain types of projects which they carry out;
- clarification on proposals for the establishment by East Ayrshire Council of a fund to be utilised for community benefit/improvement, to which developers of new housing would contribute;
- clarification on difficulties which have been encountered by East Ayrshire Council relating to the provision of skateboarding parks, arising from insurance requirements;
- clarification on the powers and responsibilities of East Ayrshire Council in relation to derelict commercial/industrial premises which can be highly detrimental to the amenity of the area within which they are located;
- clarification on the position with regard to the nature of insurance cover which should be obtained by voluntary organisations using East Ayrshire Council premises for meetings/activities etc;
- clarification on aspects of the Care and Repair Scheme which is being piloted by East Ayrshire Council in the Dalmellington area; and
- clarification on the Council's Policy and approach to the provision of a range of supported/sheltered housing accommodation.

3. CLOSING COMMENTS

Councillor McIntyre thanked those present and in attendance for their contributions to the meeting.

The meeting terminated at 2015 hours.

4. ANALYSIS OF ATTENDANCE AT CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

DATE OF MEETING	NUMBER OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE	NUMBER OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS REPRESENTED
June 1997	34	19
February 1998	34	20
November 1998	30	20
November 1999	35	16
August 2000	35	19
October 2001	35	19
November 2003	30	17

APPENDIX A

CONSULTATIVE MEETING: 24 NOVEMBER 2003

COMMUNITY COUNCILS ATTENDING

NAME OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL	ATTENDEES
Auchinleck Community Council	John Smith
Catrine Community Council	George Wade, Wendy Laurie, Linda Warmington and Peter Smith
Crosshouse Community Council	Neil Thomson and Esther Caldwell
Cumnock Community Council	William Salmond and Jean Smith
Cumnock Landward Community Council	Bill Marshall and Sheila White
Drongan/Rankinston and Stair Community Council	Eddie Torrance
Dunlop and Lugton Community Council	Barbara Wiseman
Fenwick Community Council	Janice Hampson and Rhoda Gourlay
Galston Community Council	Margot Dykes and Anne Scott
Grange/Howard Community Council	Janice Cook and Maurice Ashbridge
Kilmaurs Community Council	Jim Corson
Moscow and Waterside Community Council	Lillian Meikle
New Cumnock Community Council	James Hamilton, S L Hamilton and Geoff Crolley
Ochiltree Community Council	James Brown
Piersland-Bentinck Community Council	Ian McKenzie and Scott McKenzie
Sorn Community Council	Heather Young and Derrick Phillips
Stewarton and District Community Council	Graham Piggott

30 in total.

SN/KC