

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 1999 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Eric Ross, Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey, Willie Coffey, Drew McIntyre, Harry Wilson, Iain Linton, John Knapp, Jim Raymond, Finlay MacLean, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Julie Faulds, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillor Robert Taylor.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development; Bill Taylor, Head of Roads and Transportation; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Karen McLeod, Solicitor; and Alex Hewetson, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Douglas Reid, George Smith and Jimmy Carmichael.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

**MONITORING REPORT - BUSINESS GRANTS AND LOANS SCHEMES STATUS REPORT**

1. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the Business Grants and Loans Schemes support awarded to local companies in East Ayrshire during the period 13 September to 8 October 1999.

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AYRSHIRE TRANSPORT GROUP (Item 14, Page 4325, 96/99)**

2. There was submitted a report dated 12 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for proposed arrangements for progressing a Strategic Transport Policy on an Ayrshire basis.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the establishment of the Ayrshire Transport Group at Officer level; and
- (ii) to approve the establishment of an Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee, including the involvement of Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive and Authority.

Councillor Robert McDill joined the meeting during consideration of the above Item 2.

**INTERIM LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY - CONSULTATION (Item 12, Page 187, 99/02)**

3. There was submitted a report dated 8 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for proposals to consult on the East Ayrshire Interim Local Transport Strategy: Consultative Draft.

It was agreed to approve the consultation process on the East Ayrshire Interim Local Transport Strategy: Consultative Draft, which would include the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority as a consultee, as described in Paragraph 4 of the report.

#### **STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on statistical returns made to the Accounts Commission on Statutory Performance Indicators.

#### **ALTERATION TO ESTABLISHMENT IN PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL DIVISION**

5. There was submitted a report dated 13 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which recommended that arrangements for a minor alteration to the establishment within the Planning and Building Control Division be remitted for consideration to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve in principle the proposed adjustment in the establishment of Planning Officer posts to support the three Local Planning Committees; and
- (ii) to remit the matter for consideration to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee.

#### **COALFIELDS REGENERATION TRUST**

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the recent publication of guidelines for funding applications from the recently formed Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

#### **CODE OF GUIDANCE ON FUNDING EXTERNAL BODIES - EAST AYRSHIRE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES WITH GROWTH POTENTIAL (Item 6, Page 243, 99/02)**

7. There was submitted a report dated 12 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval to commit funding to East Ayrshire Business Partnership to finance a project which aims to produce additional in-depth business development support to businesses with high growth potential.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve funding of £15,000 in financial year 1999/2000, to be met from within the Business Grants budget, to fund East Ayrshire Business Partnership to deliver a programme of business support, as described in Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to prepare and conclude an agreement with East Ayrshire Business Partnership to regulate the management arrangements for the administration of the aforementioned ((i), above) programme of business support.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRAINING GRANTS SCHEME**

8. There was submitted a report dated 14 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for a management contract with East Ayrshire Business Partnership for the administration of the Management and Technology Training Grants scheme.

Councillor Eric Ross, seconded by Councillor Eric Jackson, moved to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to prepare and conclude an agreement with East Ayrshire Business Partnership to regulate the management arrangements for the administration of the Management and Technology Training Grants scheme, subject to the terms described in Paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Councillor Daniel Coffey, seconded by Councillor Iain Linton, moved as an amendment that the administration of the Management and Technology Training remain unchanged and be retained by the Council, on the terms described in Paragraph 2 of the report.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 9 votes to 8.

## **GRASS VERGES IN URBAN AREAS**

9. There was submitted a report dated 12 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the purpose of grass verges adjacent to footways in urban areas; the problems associated therewith; and which recommended the retention of grass verges.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the retention, wherever possible, of grass verges separating footways from adjacent roads, with exceptions to this generally being limited to small isolated areas and access crossings; and
- (ii) that any, more substantial proposed changes to grass verges, would be submitted to the relevant Local Committees for consideration.

## **SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION PAPER: TACKLING CONGESTION**

10. There was submitted a report dated 8 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on The Scottish Executive's Consultation Paper on tackling congestion through the use of road user charges and workplace parking levies. In introducing the report the Director explained that if local road charges or workplace parking levies were considered for introduction in one area, it would be necessary to consult with neighbouring Authorities to ensure that wider implications were fully taken into account.

Councillor Eric Ross, seconded by Provost Jimmy Boyd, moved:-

- (i) to note the observations on The Scottish Executive's Consultation Paper: Tackling Congestion, as described in the report;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Development Services to submit a response accordingly, encompassing the potential implications outlined; and
- (iii) to agree to take into account the following principles in any consideration of the potential application of congestion charges, if new powers became available:-

- (a) consideration should only be given to local workplace parking or local road charges once progress had been made in implementing the policies set out in the draft East Ayrshire Council Local Transport Strategy for road traffic reduction; and
- (b) motorway and trunk road tolls should only be considered if appropriate measures are implemented to prevent traffic transfers of parallel, less suitable routes and if the journey time and safety benefits clearly outweigh the potential adverse effects of introducing road pricing.

Councillor Harry Wilson, seconded by Councillor Willie Coffey, moved as an amendment:-

- (i) to note the observations on The Scottish Executive's Consultation Paper: Tackling Congestion as described in the report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Development Services to submit a response accordingly, encompassing the potential implications outlined.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 9 votes to 8.

### **ADOPTION OF ROADS**

11. There was submitted a report dated 12 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for the criteria to be used in the adoption of roads for maintenance purposes.

It was agreed to approve the criteria set out in Paragraph 3 of the report for the adoption of roads not subject to a Construction Consent.

### **INSPECTION CHARGES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS (Item 12, Page 4324, 96/99)**

12. There was submitted a report dated 4 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought authority for the Head of Roads and Transportation to offer developers a choice of fixed or "at-cost" charges for the inspection and monitoring of new roads being constructed in accordance with a Construction Consent.

It was agreed to authorise the Head of Roads and Transportation to offer developers a choice of fixed or "at-cost" charges for the inspection and monitoring of new roads being constructed in accordance with a Construction Consent.

### **VEHICLE AND PLANT FLEET REPLACEMENT**

13. There was submitted a report dated 12 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for the lease of vehicles and plant for the 1999/2000 Roads and Transportation Division fleet replacement programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Roads and Transportation Division's vehicle and plant replacement programme for 1999/2000, to be met from within the Department of Development Services Revenue budget; and
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Finance to arrange the operating lease accordingly.

### **YOUNG DRIVER PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN**

14. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on a Young Driver Publicity Campaign which was currently being run in association with North and South Ayrshire Councils and Commercial and General Union Insurance.

### **ADDITIONAL ROAD RESURFACING SCHEMES (Item 25, Page 4146, 96/99)**

15. There was submitted and noted a report dated 4 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on roads resurfacing schemes carried out using additional monies allocated under the 1999/2000 Revenue Estimates.

### **SUNDAY PARKING IN KILMARNOCK OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD (Item 14, Page 3798, 96/99)**

16. There was submitted a report dated 18 October 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval to introduce parking charges to the car parks within Kilmarnock during Sunday 28 November and Sunday 5, 12 and 19 December 1999; and in future years on the four Sundays prior to Christmas.

Councillor Drew McIntyre, seconded by Provost Jimmy Boyd moved:-

- (i) to approve the introduction of charging in the car parks within Kilmarnock Town Centre during Sunday 28 November 1999 and Sunday 5, 12 and 19 December 1999; and
- (ii) to approve that equivalent arrangements would be introduced on the four Sundays prior to Christmas in successive years.

Councillor Daniel Coffey, seconded by Councillor Iain Linton, moved as an amendment, that parking would be free of charge on the 4 Sundays prior to Christmas.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 10 votes to 7.

### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC - DALMELLINGTON AND DISTRICT CONSERVATION TRUST - WITHDRAWAL OF ITEMS**

17. The Chair informed the Committee that the above mentioned Items 17 and 18 on the Agenda had been withdrawn.

The meeting terminated at 1055 hours.