

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 1996 AT 1000 HRS  
IN THE MEETING ROOM, LONDON ROAD CENTRE, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Eric Ross (Chair), Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, John Knapp, David Fulton, Robert McDill, David Sneller and George Smith.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development; Alan Neish, Head of Planning; William Taylor, Head of Roads and Transportation; Support Unit (Martin O'Rourke, Jane Overton, Margaret McManus and Valerie Murdoch).

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Daniel Coffey, George Turnbull and James Boyd

**MINUTES OF PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF 21 NOVEMBER 1995**

1. There was submitted and approved the minutes (circulated) of the Planning Sub-Committee of 21 November 1995 as shown in the Appendix to these Minutes.

**STANDING LIST OF ROADS CONTRACTORS**

2. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services seeking the Committee's approval to continue to use Strathclyde Regional Council's standing list of roads contractors and thereafter to use this as a basis for drawing up a list of Roads Contractors for East Ayrshire and requesting agreement on the number of contractors to be invited to tender for each contract.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to adopt Strathclyde Regional Council's standing list of roads contractors;
- (ii) that the Head of Roads and Transportation compile a list of roads contractors for East Ayrshire and submit a report thereon to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- (iii) that the number of contractors requested to tender should be as follows:
  - (a) contracts valued at greater than £250,000 - 8 contractors;

- (b) contracts valued between £25,000 and £250,000 - 6 contractors; and
- (c) contracts valued at less than £25,000 - 4 contractors.

### **ROADS POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

3. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services seeking the Committee's approval to continue with Strathclyde Regional Council's Policies and Practices in relation to the standards adopted for improving, managing and maintaining the road network.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to adopt Strathclyde Region's policies and practices as outlined in the report;
- (ii) to instruct the Head of Roads and Transportation to implement a review of roads policies and practices and bring these to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- (iii) to note that if any member wishes to access the Policy and Procedure documents that these would be available from the Director of Development Services.

### **EAST AYRSHIRE SIGNS**

4. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services providing details of arrangements for the erection of East Ayrshire boundary signs in April 1996 and the proposed locations thereof.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the locations proposed for the erection of boundary signs, as Phase I of the exercise;
- (ii) to instruct the Head of Roads and Transport, in consultation with the Chair, to agree the design of the boundary sign, in line with statutory requirements; and
- (iii) that any member aware of any other cross boundary route which would benefit from the erection of a sign should advise the Director of Development Services by the end of January to enable considerations of feasibility and costings of phase II of the exercise.

### **CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME**

5. There was submitted a report dated 4 December 1995 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services informing the Committee of recent developments relating to the concessionary fare scheme and recommending a policy position for East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed that after the new Passenger Transport Authority had considered the matter, it be remitted to the Director of Development Services to report on possible modifications to the current scheme and fare levels.

#### **DISCUSSIONS WITH ENTERPRISE AYRSHIRE**

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 5 December 1995 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising the Committee of progress which had been made in establishing arrangements for collaboration with Enterprise Ayrshire and other Ayrshire authorities in promoting economic development. It was further noted that the second sentence in paragraph 5 of the report should read "In East Ayrshire, Enterprise Ayrshire will continue to invest in sites in East Ayrshire including that at Southcraig."

#### **WESTERN SCOTLAND RECHAR II OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 1994/97**

7. There was submitted a report dated 22 December 1995 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services providing a background and statement of current position of the Rechar II Programme for Western Scotland - 1994/97 (a source of European funding available to former mining areas) and details of a preliminary meeting to discuss arrangements for the implementation of the programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Development Services be authorised to participate in the RECHAR Management Committee; and
- (ii) that the Director of Development Services, the Director of Education, the Director of Social Work and the Director of Community Services be requested to identify projects which might subsequently be submitted for financial assistance through the Western Scotland RECHAR II Programme 1994/97.

#### **GRANTS TO PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

8. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising of the current level of contributions by the District and Regional Councils to special projects and partnerships which fell within East Ayrshire Council's remit.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the range of organisations and special projects currently supported by the District and Regional Councils, acknowledging that the list as detailed in the report was not exhaustive;

- (ii) that if any member was aware of other groups or projects these should be brought to the attention of the Director of Development Services; and
- (iii) that the Director of Development Services make detailed recommendations to the Committee on future levels of support once the budget was finally approved for 1996/97.

### **JOINT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROJECTS**

9. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services recommending continued support for joint employment and training projects currently operating as the New Start Project (Kilmarnock), the Open Access Project (Cumnock and Doon Valley) and the Cumnock and Doon Valley Initiative.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to maintain, in principle, support for the local training, employment and environmental projects currently operated by the New Start, Open Access and Cumnock and Doon Valley Initiatives.
- (ii) to confirm, in principle, renewal of the contracts of employment for the temporary staff employed by the Open Access and Cumnock and Doon Valley Initiatives; and
- (iii) that the Director of Development Services submit recommendations for the future financial contributions, establishment and management of the projects for consideration by the committee following consultation with the project staff.

### **MILLENNIUM FOREST PROJECT**

10. There was submitted a report dated 22 December 1995 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services outlining proposals for a forest planting and training project centred on Dalmellington.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to contribute £20,000 to the proposed Forestry and Training Project in 1996/97 subject to confirmation once the Committee's Capital Programme and Revenue Budgets had been agreed;
- (ii) to offer to undertake the management of the project, if a suitable specialist organisation could not be identified; and
- (iii) to recommend to the Project's Steering Group that the programme should be centred initially on Dalmellington, unless major operational drawbacks were found.

## **OVERSEAS TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

11. There was submitted a report dated 22 December 1995 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising of arrangements for the disaggregation of Strathclyde Business Developments International Trade Development Programme and the required arrangements with Enterprise Ayrshire, North Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council under the Local Government Etc (Scotland) Act 1994.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the disaggregation arrangements for Strathclyde Business Developments International Trade Development Programme;
- (ii) to enter into partnership discussions with Enterprise Ayrshire, North Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council and the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce, for trade development activities for 1996/97 and that proposals be reported to the Committee for early consideration; and
- (iii) to note the requirement to register with the Secretary of State, proposals for promoting economic development activity outside the United Kingdom prior to 31 March 1996.

## **EMPLOYMENT GRANT SCHEME**

12. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services seeking approval to operate Strathclyde's Employment Grant Scheme from 1 January 1996.

It was agreed to operate the Employment Grant Scheme from 1 January 1996, with all applicants being made aware that this Council would be paying for all grants awarded within East Ayrshire.

## **STRATHCLYDE STRUCTURE PLAN 1995**

13. There was submitted report (circulated) by Director of Development Services informing that Strathclyde Regional Council had submitted the 1995 Strathclyde Structure Plan to the Secretary of State for Scotland for his approval and recommending a form of response from East Ayrshire Council on the plan to the Secretary of State.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that both Cumnock and Doon Valley and Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Councils had been involved in the consultation on the Structure Plan and that their appropriate Committees would be considering the form of their respective responses to the Secretary of State for Scotland which were required to be made by 26 January 1996; and

- (ii) that the Director of Development Services write to the Secretary of State for Scotland offering no comments from East Ayrshire on the Strathclyde Structure Plan 1995, but informing him that the Council anticipated that the Ayrshire Structure Plan Joint Committee would prepare an Ayrshire Structure Plan at an early stage.

### **REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP**

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 22 December 1995 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services providing an update on recent developments regarding the new system for urban programme, in order to give the Committee an opportunity to comment to the Scottish Office.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to reaffirm its commitment to the regeneration of disadvantaged areas; and
- (ii) that the Scottish Office be urged:-
  - (a) to ensure that resources to local government for Regeneration Partnerships are maintained at least at the existing Urban Aid Programme level with a full year allocation at this level being made for 1996/97 and subsequent years regardless of whether it is viewed as a specific grant or part of a block allocation, and in either event being both clearly identifiable and remaining outwith capping limits; and
  - (b) to continue to allocate monies for such purposes among authorities on a differential basis, preferably linked to the overall degree of poverty above a certain threshold within a Council's area, regardless of the size of settlements in which circumstances of poverty occurred.

The meeting terminated at 1040 hours.