

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2000 AT 1050 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Ross, Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey, Lilian MacLean, Drew McIntyre, Harry Wilson, John Knapp, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Julie Faulds and Provost Jimmy Boyd.

ATTENDING: Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development; Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Building Control; Jim Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation; Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; David Mitchell, Legal Manager; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; and Alex Hewetson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Douglas Reid, Iain Linton, Jim Raymond, Finlay MacLean and Jimmy Carmichael.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed Councillor Lilian MacLean, to her first meeting of the Development Services Committee.

MONITORING REPORTS**2.1 BUSINESS GRANTS AND LOANS SCHEMES**

There was submitted and noted a report dated 22 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on companies which had received financial support under the Council's Business Grants and Loans Schemes in the period 22 May to 11 August 2000.

2.2 UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE

There was submitted a report dated 11 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on unemployment levels in East Ayrshire and Scotland as at June 2000; and for East Ayrshire Wards and Local Committee areas as at April 2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that a technical note on the statistical analysis of unemployment figures, contained in the report, would be presented to this Committee as soon as practicable; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS

3. There was submitted a report dated 14 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on national reviews taking place which would affect the future

delivery of economic development services within East Ayrshire and the economic development organisations charged with their delivery.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that further reports on Ayrshire Economic Forum, small business service delivery and tourist organisations would be submitted to this Committee, in due course; and
- (ii) that the Director of Development Services would report to the Ayrshire Economic Forum on reference made by this Committee to membership of the Forum by representatives of the Scottish Trade Unions Congress.

GLASGOW AND CLYDE VALLEY JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN 2000
(Item 7, Page 583, 99/02)

4. There was submitted a report dated 21 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which presented the views of the Department on the contents of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan 2000; which sought approval of the comments made therein; and which sought authorisation to forward these comments to the Scottish Executive Development Department and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Team, as the Council's formal observations on the document.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report;
- (ii) that the Council would make no formal objection to the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan 2000; and
- (iii) to authorise the Head of Planning and Building Control to forward a copy of the report to the Manager of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Team and the Scottish Executive Development Department to represent the comments of the Council on the document.

CONSULTATION PAPER ON SURFACE MINERAL WORKINGS AND DUST

5. There was submitted a report dated 21 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought the Committee's views on the Scottish Executive Development Department's Consultation Paper on Surface Mineral Workings and Dust.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report;
- (ii) to authorise the Head of Planning and Building Control to forward a copy of the report to the Scottish Office Development Department to represent the comments of the Council, on their Consultation Paper on Surface Mineral Workings and Dust; and
- (iii) that the findings of the research on the effects of particulate matter by the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health of the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne be incorporated into any environmental impact analysis which was currently being considered.

PROPOSED NEW PLANNING PROCEDURES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENTS (Item 3, Page 600, 99/02)

6. There was submitted a report dated 21 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which reviewed the implications of a recently published report on proposed new planning procedures for telecommunications developments by the Transport and the Environment Committee of the Scottish Parliament and the Independent Expert Group Report on Mobile Phones.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the response by the Scottish Executive to the findings of the Transport and the Environment Committee, Third Report 2000;
- (ii) to note the findings of the Government's Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones; and
- C (iii) to recommend that the Head of Planning and Building Control be authorised to modify the Interim Council Policy on Telecommunication Developments, as described in Paragraph 4 of the report. C

Councillor Lilian MacLean left the meeting at this point.

AIRDS MOSS: POTENTIAL SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

7. There was submitted a report dated 11 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on a proposed response to the Scottish Natural Heritage proposal, by the required deadline of 11 September 2000, that Airds Moss might qualify as a Special Area of Conservation under the European Commission's Habitats Directive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support, in principle, the designation of Airds Moss, by Scottish Natural Heritage, as a Special Area of Conservation, but that Scottish Natural Heritage should not proceed with the designation until conclusions had been reached about the adjacent potential Special Protection Area at Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands;
- (ii) to authorise the Head of Planning and Building Control to advise Scottish Natural Heritage accordingly; and
- (iii) that a report on the conclusions about the adjacent potential Special Protection Area at Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands would be submitted to this Committee, in due course.

THE NEWMILNS TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE (NTHI): UPDATE (Item 10, Page 585, 99/02)

8. There was submitted a report dated 14 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on progress with the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative (NTHI).

The Head of Planning and Building Control reported:-

- (i) that the East Ayrshire Housing Partnership's involvement had been replaced by collaboration with other Housing Associations; and

- (ii) an additional recommendation to read, viz:- that the Head of Planning and Building Control would actively pursue a meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund, at senior management level, to seek further clarification on funding issues.

It was agreed to note:-

- (i) the success of the official opening of the NTHI and the progress already made towards the implementation of the NTHI Action Plan;
- (ii) the next steps proposed to progress the implementation of the priority projects identified in the NTHI Action Plan, as described in Paragraph 5 of the report;
- (iii) that additional funds would be sought from alternative sources to meet any shortfall identified in the NTHI Action Plan;
- (iv) that a further report with regard to any financial implications which might affect the implementation of the NTHI Action Plan, would be submitted to this Committee in due course; and
- (v) that the Head of Planning and Building Control would actively pursue a meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund, at senior management level, to seek further clarification on funding issues.

Provost Jimmy Boyd left the meeting at this point.

PARTNERSHIP ACTION FOR CONTINUING EMPLOYMENT (PACE)

9. There was submitted a report dated 14 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) Initiative which was recently launched by the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report; and
- (ii) to welcome the establishment of the PACE Initiative.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

10. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

FUNDING REQUEST - AUCHINLECK COMPANY

11. There was submitted a report dated 15 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on a funding request from an Auchinleck company to assist with the ongoing training of their staff and to help with its planned expansion.

It was agreed to approve the grant, as detailed in Paragraph 4.1 of the report, to be met from the Department of Development Services' Business Grants budget for 2000/01, subject to a similar contribution to be made by Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire.

FUNDING REQUEST - NEW CUMNOCK COMPANY
(Item 14, Page 586, 99/02)

12. There was submitted a report dated 15 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on a further funding request from a New Cumnock company in order to assist with additional redevelopment costs.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to award the supplementary grant, as detailed in Paragraph 5.3 of the report, to be met from within the Department of Development Services' Business Grants budget for 2000/01; and
- (ii) to note the positive outcomes of the project to date.

FUNDING SUPPORT - EXTERNAL SUPPORTED ORGANISATION
(Item 11.2, Page 603, 99/02)

13. There was submitted a report dated 1 September 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for short-term loan funding to an external supported organisation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve a short-term loan of up to £65,000, to be repaid from the Council's annual grant to the external supported organisation for 2001/2002;
- (ii) to note that the external supported organisation would be asked to demonstrate that significant progress had been achieved in identifying funds to meet the gap of £150,000 in its funding requirements to 2003, before the release of the remainder of the Council's grant to it for 2001/2002; and
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Development Services, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, to draw up detailed conditions for the loan.

The meeting terminated at 1200 hours.