

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 31 AUGUST 1999 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

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

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Willie Coffey.

CHAIR: Councillor George Smith, Chair (Items 1.1 and 2.1) and Councillor Eric Ross, Chair, thereafter.

PLANNING APPLICATION**1.1 APPLICATION NO 99/0251/OL: MRS M WILLIAMS**

There was submitted a report dated 23 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on an outline planning application for proposed erection of new nursing home at ground east of Moorfield, East of B7064, Kilmarnock.

The Head of Planning and Building Control reported that no objections had been received; summarised the planning considerations in respect of the application; and recommended: Refusal for the following reasons, viz:- (1) The proposal is contrary to Policies CAT 1 and CAT 1A of the Strathclyde Structure Plan in that it would constitute isolated development in the Countryside Around Towns Area without a specific locational need; (2) The proposal is contrary to Policies ADS 3 and G1 of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan which seeks to direct and locate new residential and community uses to sites within existing settlement boundaries; (3) The proposal is contrary to Policy C2 of the Finalised Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Plan which states that new residential institutional development shall generally only be allowed in rural areas where the use can be accommodated within existing buildings and would not be adversely affected by adjacent uses; (4) The proposal is contrary to the Council's Land-Use Strategy for Moorfield which identifies the land for business/industry purposes in order to address the shortfall in the Kilmarnock area in respect of land for industry and non-retail commercial use; and (5) The proposal would result in the introduction of a land-use which would be incompatible with the land uses acceptable in terms of the Council's Land Use Strategy on immediately adjacent sites, by reason of noise and disturbance.

It was agreed to refuse the application for the reasons detailed.

Councillor Stephanie Young joined the meeting during consideration of the above Item 1.1.

MONITORING REPORTS

2.1 UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE - APRIL 1999

There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on unemployment levels in Scotland and East Ayrshire in particular, as at April 1999.

Councillor Eric Ross joined the meeting during consideration of the above Item 2.1.

2.2.1 Vacation of Chair

Councillor George Smith vacated the Chair and Councillor Eric Ross, took the Chair.

2.2.2 BUSINESS GRANTS AND LOAN SCHEME STATUS REPORT

There was submitted and noted a report dated 13 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the Business Grants and Loan Schemes support awarded to local companies in East Ayrshire during the period 19 July to 13 August 1999.

PROPOSED MILLENNIUM PROJECT AT CORNER OF ST MARNOCK STREET/WATERSIDE STREET, KILMARNOCK

3. There was submitted a report dated 20 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the maintenance of the site at the corner of St Marnock Street/Waterside Street, Kilmarnock; and an approach by Kilmarnock Retailers' Association to promote the site as a Millennium Project.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that in principle, the site at St Marnock Street/Waterside Street, Kilmarnock, should be offered to the Kilmarnock Retailers' Association at a nominal rent;
- (ii) to remit the matter to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee to consider the terms of the lease as described in Paragraph 5.2 of the report;
- (iii) to note that the Director of Development Services would initiate a tidying up operation to complement the Kilmarnock Retailers' Association proposal, at a cost of up to £10,000, to be met from within the Development Services Property Budget; and
- (iv) that ((iii), above) would be subject to liaison with the Kilmarnock Retailers' Association on details of the project and any future associated maintenance arrangements, prior to any financial contribution by the Council.

THE NEWMILNS TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

4. There was submitted a report dated 17 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought authority for (i) the Council to enter into a contract with the National Heritage Memorial Fund to secure a funding package for the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative; (ii) the Solicitor to the Council to draft an appropriate Constitution and legal documents for the Newmilns Townscape Heritage

Initiative; (iii) the Director of Finance to set up and keep the necessary bank accounts and financial records for the Newmilns Heritage Initiative; and recommending a structure for membership of the proposed Executive Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Solicitor to the Council to:-
 - (a) sign a contract with the National Heritage Memorial Fund relative to the grant to be made to them by the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative, in the terms described in Paragraph 3.2 of the report;
 - (b) draft a written Constitution of the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative, in the terms described in Paragraph 3.3 of the report and subject to the approval of the Irvine Valley Regeneration Partnership, as Project Partner, to complete same; and
 - (c) prepare and sign an agency agreement relative to the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative permitting the Council as Agent to employ staff, make offers of grant and to take securities in the name of the Council as Agent on behalf of the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative and to perform such other functions on behalf of the Initiative as the Solicitor to the Council deems necessary, in the terms described in Paragraph 3.4 of the report;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Finance to establish accounting procedures and records on behalf of the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative and to monitor and administer all funds received from the National Heritage Memorial Fund in accordance with the monitoring procedures referred to in the contract; and
- (iii) to remit to Council the nomination of three Elected Members to represent the Council on the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative Executive Committee.

NORTH WEST KILMARNOCK ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS GROUP

5. There was submitted a report dated 17 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the position regarding the North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvement Group in terms of the Code on Funding External bodies and Following the Public Pound; and on progress on this project; and requesting the Council to appoint Elected Members to the North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvement Group.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress of the North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvements Group;
- (ii) to note that the Chair of Development Services Committee had been nominated to represent the Council on the North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvement Group; and
- (iii) to remit to Council the nomination of the Elected Members, for the Wards concerned to be representatives of the Council on the North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvements Group and that the Vice-Chair of the Development Services Committee be substitute for the Chair of the Development Services Committee.

**CODE OF GUIDANCE ON FUNDING EXTERNAL BODIES REVIEW OF 1998/99
ACTIVITIES OF EAST AYRSHIRE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP**

6. There was submitted a report dated 20 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on outcomes of work undertaken by East Ayrshire Business Partnership in financial year 1998/99; and on the performance targets agreed for the current financial year 1999/2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the compliance with the terms of the Code of Guidance on External Funding and Following the Public Pound in respect of the Council's relationship with East Ayrshire Business Partnership;
- (ii) to note the achievements of the East Ayrshire Business Partnership during the 1998/99 financial year, as described in the report;
- (iii) to approve continued support for the work of the East Ayrshire Business Partnership, as a local business development organisation, working in partnership with the Council, Enterprise Ayrshire and the local communities;
- (iv) to approve the proposed performance targets for the current year 1999/2000, as described in Paragraph 6 of the report;
- (v) to approve the preparation and implementation of a Service Level Agreement in respect of the Council's core funding of the East Ayrshire Business Partnership;
- (vi) to approve the preparation and implementation of a formal contract with the East Ayrshire Business Partnership in respect of the devolved delivery of the Management and Technology Training Grant Scheme; and
- (vii) that the Director of Development Services would report on the monitoring of the agreed service delivery targets and outcomes to future meetings of this Committee.

REVIEW OF EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS

7. There was submitted a report dated 16 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on recent developments in respect of the assessment of East Ayrshire's eligibility for European Structural Funds; and which sought agreement on representations to be made to the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the terms of the representation to be made to the Scottish Executive as described in Paragraph 3.3 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**FUNDING EXTERNAL BODIES AND FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND - EAST
AYRSHIRE EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE**

8. There was submitted a report dated 15 July 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the position with regard to the East Ayrshire Employment Initiative in terms of the Accounts Commission Code on Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the financial contribution required to maintain the current level of service as described in Paragraph 6.1 of the report, which would be reflected in a Service Level Agreement currently in preparation for consideration by this Committee, at a future date;
- (ii) to approve the monitoring arrangements as described in Paragraph 7.1 of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ROADS INSPECTIONS

9. There was submitted a report dated 16 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the inspection regime for road openings by Public Utilities and private contractors.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the recent clarification and the improvements in the Council's powers to supervise reinstatements carried out by Public Utility companies and private contractors; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

REPORT ON ROAD MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN 1998/99

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the Roads Operations activities in 1998/99.

ASSESSMENT OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

11. There was submitted a report dated 16 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought approval for the assessment criteria to be used in the selection of sites for pedestrian crossings.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the use of the method of assessment for pedestrian crossings as described in Appendix A, to the report; and
- (ii) to note the cost of providing the various types of pedestrian crossing and the constraints imposed by the current Capital Budget for Road Safety.

ROAD LIGHTING MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE (HIGHLIGHTS)

12. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought authority to act as "Lead Authority" on behalf of the Highlights Users Group in negotiations with the Authorities Buying Consortium for the purchase of a replacement road lighting management software package.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Department of Development Services would act as "Lead Authority" on behalf of the Highlights Users Group in negotiations with the Authorities Buying Consortium, conditional upon appropriate guarantees on behalf of other user group members to underwrite the costs involved with the contract; and

- (ii) to note that these negotiations would be subject to the satisfaction of the Solicitor to the Council.

WINDYHILL ROAD, NEWMILNS - CLOSURE AT VESUVIUS

- 13.** There was submitted a report dated 27 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the closure of Windyhill Road, Newmilns, at Vesuvius.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that Windyhill Road, Newmilns, at Vesuvius had been closed; and
- (ii) that the Director of Development Services would submit an update report on the matter to this Committee, in due course.

SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 27 August 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which (i) advised, that following a review by Strathclyde Passenger Transport of all subsidised services across the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority area a number of services in East Ayrshire were recommended for cancellation; and of other subsidised service contracts recommended for renewal and changes to services under the Rural Transport Grant; and (ii) sought authority to approach Strathclyde Passenger Transport with a view to consider further bus services in East Ayrshire in the context of the Council's Draft Local Transport Strategy in order to recommend service improvements which would compensate for the current proposed reductions.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the bus service subsidy reductions which were being considered by Strathclyde Passenger Transport and the action taken by the Director of Development Services which sought modifications to some of these proposals;
- (ii) to note the renewal of general contracts and changes in Rural Transport Fund contracts which were currently being considered by the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority;
- (iii) to note that in view of the impact on East Ayrshire of the subsidy reductions which were currently being considered, the Director of Development Services had reached agreement, in principle, with Strathclyde Passenger Transport to work with East Ayrshire Council in the identification of service gaps which could be filled cost-effectively; and
- (iv) that local Members be asked for their suggestions on identifying service gaps.

The meeting terminated at 1110 hours.