

AYRSHIRE JOINT PLANNING STEERING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at 2.00pm on Thursday 13 May 2010 in East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.

Present: Cllr. Tom Barr and Elizabeth McLardy (North Ayrshire Council); Cllr. Robert McDill (East Ayrshire Council); Cllr. Margaret Toner (South Ayrshire Council).

In Attendance:; Mike Newall Head of Planning and Enterprise ; Alan Neish Head of Planning and Economic Development East Ayrshire Council; Margaret Ferrier, Team Leader Development Plans and Implementation, North Ayrshire Council, Karl Doroszenko, Development Plan and Regeneration Manager, East Ayrshire Council, Neil Feggans, Team Leader , Development Plans, South Ayrshire Council, Ian Johnson, Manager, John Esslemont, Senior Policy Officer, Alan Edgar, Policy Officer and Nigel Wallace Policy Officer Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit.

Chair: Cllr. Robert McDill

Item 1 Apologies

Cllr. I Fitzimmons, (South Ayrshire Council), Cllr. J Buchanan (East Ayrshire Council), Bob Forrest, Planning Services Manager North Ayrshire Council, Christina Cox Planning Manager South Ayrshire Council

Item 2 Approval of Minutes 16th December 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2009 were approved by Cllr Tom Barr and seconded by Cllr. Margaret Toner.

Item 3 Matters Arising

Cllr. Toner noted that a retail capacity exercise would be undertaken for Ayrshire. It was agreed that a report on progress on this matter would be presented to the next Steering Group in November.

Item 4 Work Programme, Assessment, Review and Future Directions

A report was submitted which recognised that that with a loss of staff within the AJPU team and at council level there will be an increasing need to pool resources in spatial planning to offset any difficulties and to work together more actively on joint priorities. It was recognised that there are significant benefits to a shared planning service in the delivery of specialist topic support and in the delivery of key initiatives as evidenced by work ongoing

on the Glasgow Prestwick Study, the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Initiative and in the future on the potential offered by an Ayrshire Green Network as an integral part of the Central Scotland Green Network. These initiatives undertaken jointly fill important gaps in councils' staff resources and can make a significant contribution toward sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

The report was agreed and remitted to the Technical Management Team for decisions to be taken on a priority work programme.

Item 5 Central Scotland Green Network

A report was submitted which highlighted that a co-ordinated approach facilitated through the Joint Planning Unit and in partnership with other agencies and bodies to co-ordinate action and deliver future opportunities would benefit the development of the Central Scotland Green Network within Ayrshire. It was also recognised that the development of a high quality green network could contribute significantly toward addressing many of the future environmental, social and economic challenges that Ayrshire faces.

The report was agreed and remitted to the Technical Management Team for further discussion on how the delivery of this national development could be facilitated within Ayrshire.

Item 6 South of Scotland Aviation Solution: Final Radar Feasibility

A report was submitted advising of the implications for Ayrshire of the work of the South of Scotland Regional Aviation Solution Group. This was detailed in their "Final Report" which had recently published by the Scottish Government. It was noted that there had been no formal consultation with local authorities on the report and that a joint response, given the implications the findings may have on Glasgow Prestwick Airport and the economy of Ayrshire, would be appropriate.

The report was noted and it was agreed that the report be remitted to the Technical Management Team to;

- *formulate of a joint response to the Final Radar Feasibility*
- *monitor further developments*
- *explore the likely implications for wind farm policy.*

Item 7 Private Sector House Building in Ayrshire

A report was submitted which provided a synopsis of the state of the private sector house building activity and the factors influencing future private sector development. It was noted that house building activity remains depressed and that finance available to building companies from banks was hard to secure. Factors surrounding mortgage lending, employment prospects and future public spending were reducing confidence in investment.

The report was noted and remitted to the TMT to monitor future developments and to explore the likely implications for housing policy.

Item 8 Any Other Business

It was noted by Cllr. Mc Dill that because of his imminent retirement in early June this would be the last meeting of the Steering Group that Ian Johnson would attend. On behalf of the Steering Group Cllr. McDill made a presentation to Ian and thanked him for the service he had given to the three Ayrshire Councils over the last fourteen years. Cllr. Tom Barr on behalf of North Ayrshire, his employer, recounted his long service in planning within the West of Scotland and the significant contribution he had made latterly to strategic planning within Ayrshire.

Ian thanked Cllr. McDill & Cllr. Barr and members of the steering group for their kind wishes and intimated that he had enjoyed working with Ayrshire but was looking forward to retirement.

Item 9 Date of Next Meeting: 2.00pm Thursday 25th November 2010

John Esslemont
Acting Manager
Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit