

**AYRSHIRE JOINT PLANNING STEERING GROUP
26 MAY 2011**

Ayrshire Joint Planning Steering Group: Work Programme Update

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To advise the Steering Group on the progress made in delivering the work programme which was confirmed by the steering group in November 2010.

BACKGROUND

2. At the last meeting of the Steering Group an operational plan for the forthcoming year was approved. At that meeting it was remitted to the technical management team to develop further the opportunities which could promote best value. Since the steering group meeting the TMT has met on a number of occasions and sought to build a consensus around key areas which the joint planning service should lead. These decisions have been made within the context of the Minute of Agreement between all three Councils, available resources and the needs of the emerging Local Development Plans which are progressed independently by each Council. The tasks identified have sought to be broadly equable between all three Councils and have sought to provide best value in the implementation of the new planning system. This process has confirmed common priorities.

WORK PROGRAMME

3. The TMT recognized that by seeking new funding opportunities, developing new agendas and creating opportunities that sit at the interface between local and national spatial planning and other land use initiatives a pro-active image of Ayrshire working jointly on key issues can be created.
4. Within this context the work of the Joint Planning Service has sought since November to focus resources on a number of key areas. These are:
 - Developing the partnership working necessary to deliver a national “Green Network” for Ayrshire; Funding from the CSGN fund and the Central Scotland Support Unit have also enabled an audit of Ayrshire’s green infrastructure to be undertaken, preliminary work on developing a future woodland strategy for Ayrshire and the identification of habitat improvement priorities within Ayrshire. This initial work will help shape future funding programmes.
 - Progressing the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere to UNESCO designated status. Since the last steering group an application has been formally submitted to UNESCO well in advance of the September 2011 deadline. New

governance arrangements have been put in place, with the establishment of a Biosphere Partnership Board and Biosphere Working Group. Two biodiversity officers, funded through the LEADER programme have also been appointed.

- Supporting the delivery of national waste targets through planning representation on the Ayrshire Joint Waste management Board.
- Supporting the Ayrshire Leader Programme through representation on the Local Action Group.
- Supporting the river basin management plan and marine spatial planning process through representation on partnership working groups.
- Supporting development management and development planning by providing strategic and specialist advice and comment on national consultations.
- Strengthening the specialist support and capacity available to the planning service in Ayrshire by introducing a range of improvements to the management of spatial data. This has involved a consolidation of existing web sites and a review and update of spatial and electronic information on the physical, economic, environmental and social characteristics of Ayrshire held by the unit.

CONCLUSION

5. Significant progress is being made in delivering the work programme and themes approved in November 2010. The remaining areas identified within the operational plan 2010/11 will be developed during forthcoming months. The TMT has also identified a number of new areas of work which could be taken forward on a joint basis in 2011/12. Resources to deliver these new areas have still to be identified but will be considered against existing priorities and reported on at subsequent steering group meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

6. The Steering Group is asked to:
 - note the progress to date on delivering the 2010/11 work programme; and
 - remit the Technical Management Team to develop further areas of joint working which offer best value in the period 2011/12.

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Progress Statement: Update May 2011

The operational plan for the Joint Planning Unit is set out under the following four headings.

1. National Planning & Regional Actions *
2. Specialist Support
3. Co-ordination of spatial data and monitoring
4. Communication

*Note a number of these areas of work are identified in the NPF2 action programme. The JPU is not the lead partner but identified as a contributor to their delivery.

1. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Central Scotland Green Network National Development 12 NPF2 Action No. 22		JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate partnership working. Commission and appoint consultants to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review existing information • identify opportunities for development • mechanisms for delivery • confirm partnership opportunities. <p>Report to the steering group recommendations for developing a green network within Ayrshire.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Co-ordinate green network activity with in Ayrshire. Facilitate workshops /training and joint working to raise awareness. 3. Develop programme of workshops/training events (ongoing) 4. Develop web based communication strategy Web Revision (April/July 2011) 5. Develop funding & delivery programme (June - November 2011). 	<p>The central Scotland Green Network seeks to promote a strategic network of woodland and other habitats, active travel routes, greenspace links and to enhance the setting for development and other land uses and improve opportunities for outdoor recreation and cultural activity. Elements covered by the designation include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland expansion * • Creation of high quality landscape structure which supports development and settlement strategies. • Strategic routes for active travel and recreation • Strategic habitat networks and habitat development projects* • Restoration of vacant and derelict land for green network purposes; and • The integration of woodland, habitat, green space and access development with water catchment and coastal zone management <p>(*Refer to specific sub activities below)</p>	<p>Funding awarded to audit the form and function of existing green infrastructure within Ayrshire and scope out options for future organisational arrangements to facilitate the Green Network ND within Ayrshire.</p> <p>Tender drafted & issued in December 2010</p> <p>Consultants appointed January</p> <p>Inception Meeting held</p> <p>Stakeholder meeting held 1st February- Dower House, Kilmarnock</p> <p>Report drafted</p> <p>Conclusions reported to May meeting of the steering group.</p>

2. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Central Scotland Green Network NPF Action No. 42	Integrated Habitat Network * Link to implementation of CSGN-NPF2	JPU/Green Network IHN Steering Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commission Report 2. Disseminate findings (January/April 2011) 3. Confirm habitat opportunities within the green network corridors (Spring /Summer 2011) 4. Prepare guidance in conjunction with SNH/Central Scotland Support Unit (April/October 2011) 	The creation of ecological networks and the development of habitat restoration programmes can make a significant contribution to safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity and landscape and allow species adaptation to climate change.)	<p>Funding awarded Report commissioned Work Complete GIS data available Dissemination meeting held 9th February Habitat improvement opportunities identified Further workshops to be established</p>

3. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Central Scotland Green Network National Forest Strategy SPP	Woodland Expansion* Link to implementation of CSGN-NPF2	JPU/ Green Network Steering Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commission report on how environmental sensitivities can be best integrated into a future Forestry and Woodland Strategy. (ie those that relate to Climate change/Landscape/Historic environment & Cultural Heritage/Biodiversity/Water, Soil, Air. 2. Review existing IFS and produce a monitoring statement -Review proposed to integrate with work being undertaken in conjunction with Green Network funding. 3. Data collection and analysis Scope of a future forestry and woodland strategy) 4. Draft Strategy 5. Consult on draft strategy 6. Finalise and refine strategy 	<p>National targets seek an increase in woodland cover to 25% land area of Scotland.</p> <p>The government advice “the right tree in the right place” encourages the development and review of a woodland strategies A revision for Ayrshire would offer multiple benefits and contribute to national objectives. A review would integrate well with the development of a Green Network partnership.</p> <p>Process will require to be supported by an SEA and an Appropriate Assessment (2010/2012)</p>	<p>Funding awarded to audit the form and function of existing green infrastructure within Ayrshire and scope out options for future organisational arrangements to facilitate the Green Network ND within Ayrshire.</p> <p>Tender drafted & issued in December 2010</p> <p>Consultants appointed January</p> <p>Inception Meeting held</p> <p>Stakeholder meeting held 1st February- Dower House, Kilmarnock</p> <p>Draft report April</p> <p>Final report 31 April and model software provided.</p> <p>Support funding available to develop a revision of IFS, supporting SEA and appropriate assessment.</p> <p>Report to May steering group</p> <p>Work scheduled to begin in Summer 2011</p>

4. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Progress Biosphere to UNESCO "Candidate Status" for Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Joint Ayrshire Structure Plan		JPU/Biosphere Steering Group/Board/	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop the support from communities and stakeholders (2010/2011) 2. Secure delivery of funding through LEADER (2 posts created) 3. Meeting with Minister (scheduled November 2010) 4. Prepare UNESCO application (Vision/ Charter/Framework) (March 2011) 5. Establish Biosphere Partnership Board & support governance arrangements (December 2010/January 2011). 6. Submission to UKMAB & DEFRA for approval (May/June 2011) 7. Submission to UNESCO (Sept. 2011) 8. Approval 2012 	The statutory planning and other policy frameworks recognise the potential of the natural and cultural assets to be drivers of regeneration and economic development. To realise these opportunities a number of possible options were explored by the respective councils including the possibility of seeking UNESCO Biosphere status. The concept received statutory backing through the Joint structure plan for Ayrshire in 2007.	<p>Strong support from communities and stakeholders has been confirmed. This process is continuing.</p> <p>Funding of two support officers secured through LEADER funding</p> <p>Ministerial support Vision & Charter prepared</p> <p>Governance arrangements and partnership board has been established.</p> <p>Application submitted to UKMAP & DEFRA</p> <p>Application submitted to UNESCO .</p>

5. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	National Land Use Strategy		JPU/Biosphere Steering Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respond to draft National Land Use consultation (November 2010) 2. Promote concept of a pilot project (Biosphere) 	<p>The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 requires a land use strategy to be laid by Scottish Ministers before the Scottish Parliament by 31 March 2011.</p> <p>The strategy sets out the Government's objectives in relation to sustainable land use, as well as proposals, policies and their associated timescales for meeting those.</p>	<p>Response made</p> <p>Strategy issued in March 2011</p> <p>Supporting information note- “Applying an Ecosystems approach to Land Use” recognises approach in development of the green network, forest strategies and how it is being applied with reference to the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.</p>

6. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan		Councils/JPU (Chair 2011/12-NAC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend Local Biodiversity Action Plan and management group meetings. 2. Ensure effective communication and co-ordination within ABAP process to enable partnership working. Integrate Green Network /Biosphere/activity within annual priorities of the partnership 3. Ensure effective review and monitoring systems of progress toward implementation are in place. 4. Ensure effective communication with Scottish BAP process, UK biodiversity process and other LBAP's. 5. Review environmental data management systems 	<p>The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a "biodiversity duty" on public bodies to "further the conservation of biodiversity" as they carry out work.</p> <p>The unit provides support to the Councils .</p>	<p>Unit is providing direct support through the development of an Ayrshire Biological Records centre- work has advanced and involves development of GIS capacity. Significant progress is expected by May/June 2011. Records will be made available on line in GIS format for Ayrshire to registered users.</p>

7. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Deliver enhanced facilities and improvements in surface transport and other infrastructure at Glasgow Prestwick Airport. NPF2 – Action Programme		Infratil/SAC//JPU/SPT/Airport Working Group	1. Publish surface access strategy consultation-	Improvements in the surface access and enhancement of other infrastructure and facilities are identified in the Action Programme of NPF2. The unit provides support to the lead partners.	Draft document prepared. Meeting held with airport management January 2011 Timetable for publication agreed (Summer 2011)

8. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Strengthen the role of Ayrshire as Scotland's Western Gateway NPF2 Action programme		Councils/JPU	Councils working jointly to incorporate requirements within emerging development plans, associated action programmes, master plans, development briefs and development management decisions.	Identified as a regional action within NPF2. The Joint Planning Unit is identified as a support partner in facilitating actions which will expand business opportunities by promoting environmental quality and good connectivity, by encouraging a supply of new homes and supporting the regeneration of communities	An Economic Partnership has been established to identify strategic inhibitors which need to be addressed at an Ayrshire level to maximise sustainable economic growth, address recessionary issues and to take the necessary action to remove such inhibitors

9. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Deliver regeneration focussed on Ayr, Irvine, Kilmarnock and former mining towns in East Ayrshire and promote regeneration and diversification in small towns. NPF2 – Action Programme	Irvine Bay URC//Councils/JPU	Reflect Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Irvine Bay URC masterplan, objectives of the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN), in preparation of development plans, associated action programmes, masterplans, development briefs and development management decisions	The NPF2 action programme identifies Irvine Bay URC and the JPU as lead partners in promoting development which helps regenerate communities and facilitates the adaptation of climate change	<p>The Integrated Regeneration Strategy for Kilmarnock was approved in May 2009. East Ayrshire Council is investing £21m in Kilmarnock town centre to create a new office campus.</p> <p>Cumnock town centre masterplan was agreed in November 2008 and is being implemented by East Ayrshire Council in partnership with a developer.</p> <p>Town Regeneration Plan in place for Irvine, produced by Irvine Bay Regeneration Company</p>	Regeneration priority focussed on Ayr, Irvine, Kilmarnock and in former mining & mill towns within Ayrshire.

10. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Marine Spatial Planning		JPU/Councils	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respond to consultation on future Scottish Marine Regions 2. Attend Clyde Estuary Forum Meetings 3. Support Development of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan and its integration with land use planning. 4. Advise on implications of Marine Planning 	<p>Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan was published in September 2010</p> <p>Firth of Clyde Clyde Marine Spatial Plan-Action programme being taken forward through partnership working-funding commitment to seascape study.</p> <p>Responded to consultation on Scotland's Marine Regions .</p> <p>Response to consultations on- Marine Plan for Scotland</p>	<p>Attendance at Clyde Forum partnership meetings</p> <p>Council funding for seascape study confirmed</p> <p>Response to Scotland Marine Region Consultation & pre consultation draft of National Marine Plan</p>

11. National Planning and Regional Actions	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	River Basin Management Plan		JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend Clyde Area Advisory Group Meetings 2. Support the delivery of river basin management planning and assist in the co-ordination of river basin planning with other plans and programmes. 3. Integrate catchment summaries into GIS systems.(Spring 2011) 4. Disseminate information through a presentation by project officer at future steering group meeting 	<p>Planning authorities are legally designated responsible authorities in respect of WFD interests.</p> <p>RBMP's have identified pressures on the water environment and are developing programmes to mitigate impact.</p>	<p>Representation on Clyde Area Action Group</p> <p>Supporting delivery of river basin management pilots within Biosphere</p>

12. Specialist Support	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Take an overview of development management on local development plans preparation; Assistance at public inquiries		JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide specialist support (Wind Farm Enquiries) 2. Comment on consistency of applications with Structure Plan policy. 3. Representation on South Ayrshire LDP Board 4. Advice LDP North Ayrshire 5. Support preparation of LDP East Ayrshire 	The JPU has been asked to support and give evidence at public enquiries in the forthcoming year.	<p>Comment on strategic applications Precognition prepared for Layland Moor (NAC) wind farm appeal. (enquiry cancelled) Support in position taken on Cowans Law (EAC) windfarm hearing. Strategic advice on LDP's</p>

13. Specialist Support	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Develop specialist services to support development management and development planning		TMT	1. Report by TMT to the joint steering group	The consultation on “resourcing a high quality planning system” identified the important role joint planning services can play. Partnerships included those that were developing shared services in relation to planning gain, strategic environmental assessment and local review bodies or where there was an opportunity to share expertise on cross boundary issues such as wind farms.	Interim work programme priorities identified. Discussion on going.

14. Specialist Support	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Planning & Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009		Councils/JPU	1. To be clarified, identify /SupportCouncil needs.	<p>This is a developing area of work for Councils and involves preliminary flood risk assessments, flood risk and hazard mapping and flood risk management plans. This will require close collaboration between SEPA, local authorities and bodies involved in managing flooding. A consultation on "Planning for floods-planning the future" closed on the 15th October 2010. It sets out proposed geographical areas for "local plan areas" together with partnership working arrangements. A consultation on National Flood Risk Assessment (nFRA), begins on the June 13th 2011 and closes 5 August 2011. Final "local plan " boundaries will be confirmed by December 2011.</p> <p>Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Regulations (Scotland) 2009 Planning authorities require applicants to provide an assessment of flood risk where a development is likely to result in a material increase in the number of buildings at risk of being damaged by flooding</p>	<p>Draft national guidance on sustainable flood management published. January/March 2011 National Flood Management Advisory Group established (April 2011) Publication of National Flood Risk Assessment- scheduled for June 2011</p>

15. Specialist Support	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Renewables		JPU/Councils	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor existing and future developments. (2011) 2. Advise on any change necessary to existing wind farm guidance. 3. Review implications of revised PAN45 		<p>6 month update- information has been published on line, web map.</p> <p>Revision of current wind farm guidance being considered – resources to be confirmed.</p>
	Aviation		JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide secretarial support to the Airport Consultative Committee. 2. Prepare agendas 3. Prepare papers 		<p>Meetings held every quarter.</p>
	Minerals		JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor existing consents (Q3- 2011) 2. Review existing guidance (Q4 2011/2012) 	<p>An adequate and steady supply of minerals is essential to support sustainable economic growth. Planning authorities are required to have regard to the availability, quality, accessibility and requirement for mineral resources in their area when preparing development plans.</p>	<p>Work not started</p> <p>A key area of work identified by EAC. An Ayrshire wide strategy for mineral development in line with AJSP policy ENV 12 is required by EAC to feed into the LDP due for publication in March 2013. Resources to be confirmed.</p>

16. Co-ordination of spatial data and monitoring	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Monitor changes to the physical, economic and social characteristics of Ayrshire		JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Monitor 2010 Maintain supporting data sources 	This would continue the set of baseline reports against which the wider objectives of sustainable development can be measured.	<p>Monitor 2010 has been published Supporting data is being updated Meta data & sources is being updated.</p>
	Review existing web based data systems		JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify best practice Establish an inter authority working group 	The aim of the working group would be to explore the opportunities for maintaining web based spatial data management systems	<p>Consolidation of existing web based mapping facilities</p>
	Monitor changes to land uses		JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Publish online audits for housing, retail, industrial , vacant & derelict land ,waste and minerals for 2009 & 2010 	The aim would be to co-ordinate data collection and <u>set standards</u> which would allow a consistent approach across the three Councils	<p>Housing Audit 2010 completed. First meeting with house building industry has been held. Report to steering group. Vacant & Derelict land for 2009 /10 is complete. Update of retail information scheduled for summer Minerals/waste not started</p> <p>1</p>

17. Co-ordination of spatial data and monitoring	Activity & Origin	Sub Activity	Lead and Resource Implications	Tasks/Targets	Commentary	Progress to date
	Monitor changes to the function of town centres and the retail market.		Councils/JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake bi-annual survey of floorspace units and publish key findings. Summer 2011 2. Prepare retail capacity study (December 2010) 3. Maintain information on retail trends (November /December2010) 	<p>The information provides historical background to changes within retail centres in Ayrshire</p> <p>Purchase MINTEL retail rankings; Purchase Expenditure and Trend Projections</p>	<p>Bi annual survey of floorspace scheduled for summer.</p> <p>Not completed- not resourced</p> <p>Information purchased</p>
	Monitor changes within the housing market		Councils/JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor house sales (Sasines) 2. Publish housing audits for 2009 (Spring 2011)& 2010 (Autumn 2011) 3. Maintain information on demographic and housing trends. 	Support for HNDA	<p>Updated on a monthly basis</p> <p>Refer above- target for completion of 2010 audit is May 2011</p> <p>(ie consultation with house building industry in progress)</p>
	Transport Modelling		Councils/JPU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support national and regional land use models by maintaining relevant zonal land use data 	The information is require to support LATIS (Land Use and Transport integration model for Scotland)	<p>This requires up to date data- see above-</p>

18. Communications	Activity	Sub Activity		Task/Targets	Commentary	Progress & Stimescales
4.1	Annual Report		Councils/JPU	1. Publish an Annual Report on progress toward planning outcomes. (November 2011)	Intended to raise awareness of the joint planning activity within Ayrshire	Scheduled publication for November steering group- views sought on content
4.2	Web site		JPU	1. Promote greater awareness of exiting web based systems (eg Housing Land Supply/ environmental mapping facility/wind farm guidance/ Biosphere)(2010/2011) 2. Develop Green Network component 3. Develop Biodiversity Record System	The web mapping facilities provided by the unit are recognised as useful tools. These have developed on a piecemeal basis future development through consolidation is being considered.	Biodiversity Record System- significant progress is being made. The wind farm web mapping guidance tool is regularly used. Consideration is being given on how this system can developed further by adding more detailed to the records? i.e. no of turbines, output capacity etc A web based approached to green network may also be useful and this will be considered within the context of a rationalisation of existing systems.
4.3	Briefings		JPU	1. Provide regular briefings on strategic issues. (2010/2011)		On going.

Ayrshire Joint Planning Service

