

**AYRSHIRE JOINT PLANNING STEERING GROUP**

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**Minutes of Meeting held at 2.00pm on Thursday 25 November 2011 in South Ayrshire Council Headquarters, County Buildings, Ayr.**

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

**In Attendance:** Mike Newall Head of Planning and Enterprise; Christina Cox Planning Manager, South Ayrshire Council; Bob Forrest, Planning Services Manager, North Ayrshire Council; Karl Doroszenko, Development Plan and Regeneration Manager, East Ayrshire Council; John Esslemont, Acting Manager, Alan Edgar, Policy Officer, Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit.

**Chair:** Cllr. Robert McDill

**Item 1: Apologies**

Cllr. E. Mclardy (North Ayrshire Council), Cllr. I Fitzimmons, (South Ayrshire Council), Cllr. J Buchanan (East Ayrshire Council), Alan Neish Head of Planning and Economic Development East Ayrshire Council

**Item 2: Approval of Minutes 13th May 2010**

It was noted that Cllr. I Fitzimmons had attended the meeting, subject to the inclusion of his name in the list of attendees the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2010 were approved by Cllr Tom Barr and seconded by Cllr. Margaret Toner.

**Item 3: Matters Arising**

It was noted that the concerns of the Ayrshire Councils in relation to the deliberations of the South West Scotland Aviation Group and the final radar feasibility study had been raised through correspondence to the Chief Planner and the Renewable Energy Division within the Scottish Government.

**Item 4: Ayrshire Joint Planning Steering Group: Operational Plan**

A report was submitted which sought approval of the operational plan of the joint planning service in the forthcoming year. After discussion on its content additions to text were proposed which sought to recognize regeneration opportunities within the textile/weaving communities of the Irvine valley and within the small towns throughout Ayrshire.

*With the incorporation of the above amendments the report was agreed as the basis of the work programme of the Joint Planning Service in the forthcoming year. The Technical Management Team was remitted to develop further the opportunities which could promote best value in the Planning Service within Ayrshire.*

#### **Item 5: Monitor 2010**

A report was submitted outlining the key findings from Monitor 2010. Monitor 2010 is the sixth in the series of reports against which the aims of the Structure Plan and wider goals of sustainable development have been measured. Whilst noting improvements in a number of environmental and social indicators a dominating feature within the report was the impact the recession was having on the economy of Ayrshire. Whilst this mirrored national and UK trends the report recognised that the recovery may be more protracted and take longer because of underlying weaknesses within the economy. The poorly performing economy and social issues highlighted within the report present significant challenges and must provide the context within which broader council initiatives and local development plans should be developed in the future.

*The report was noted and approved for circulation. It was agreed*

- *that it be sent on behalf of the steering group to elected members within Ayrshire; and*
- *it be published on the Steering Group web site.*

#### **Item 6: Retail Capacity Study**

A report was submitted advising of the work being undertaken to prepare sub regional retail capacity assessments and in monitoring changes within retail centres across Ayrshire.

*The report was noted and it was agreed:-*

- *to disseminate the results of the retail capacity study to the planning policy teams when this is available; and*
- *to monitor further developments*

#### **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. The TMT was asked to monitor future developments and to explore the likely implications for housing policy.*

**Item 8: Draft Land Use Strategy**

A report was submitted which advised members of the publication of the first draft National Land Use Strategy for Scotland and the implications for Ayrshire. The government is required to produce the strategy under the Climate Change (Scotland) act 2009 and its primary purpose is to guide the sustainable use of land within Scotland and to tackle climate change.

*The report was noted. It was agreed that the contents of the report would form the basis of the response of the steering group to the Scottish Government on behalf of the three Ayrshire Councils.*

**Item 9: Glasgow & Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan - Main Issues Report**

A report was submitted which advised members the consultation currently taking place by the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan Authority on the Main Issues Report (MIR) for the Clyde Valley area.

*The issues raised in the report were noted and it was agreed that these would form the basis of a joint response by the Ayrshire Councils to the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority.*

**Item 10: Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere**

A report was submitted which provided an update on the work being undertaken to progress towards UNESCO Biosphere status for a large part of rural South & East Ayrshire and part of Dumfries & Galloway Council area. The Structure Plan recognizes the potential natural and cultural assets have in future economic regeneration and the concept of a Biosphere was one of four key environment/tourism economic initiatives which were identified.

*The progress made toward UNESCO Biosphere designation was noted.*

**Item 12: AOCB**

None

**Item 13: Date of Next Meeting: 2.00pm Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

John Esslemont  
Acting Manager  
Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit