

**AYRSHIRE JOINT PLANNING STEERING GROUP**

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**Minutes of Meeting held at 2.00pm on Thursday 26 May 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); Cllr. I Fitzsimmons, (South Ayrshire Council)

**In Attendance:** Christina Cox Planning Manager, South Ayrshire Council; David Hammond. Team Leader, Development Plans, North Ayrshire Council; Karl Doroszenko, Development Plan and Regeneration Manager, East Ayrshire Council; John Esslemont, Acting Manager, Alan Edgar, Policy Officer, Nigel Wallace, Policy Officer, Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit

**Chair:** Cllr. Margaret Toner

**Item 1: Apologies**

Cllr. E. Mclardy (North Ayrshire Council), Cllr. J Buchanan (East Ayrshire Council), Alan Neish Head of Planning and Economic Development East Ayrshire Council, Bob Forrest, Planning Services Manager , North Ayrshire Council

**Item 2: Approval of Minutes 25th November 2010**

The minute of the meeting held on 25th November 2010 was approved by Cllr. Robert McDill and seconded by Cllr. Tom Barr.

**Matters Arising**

It was noted that an officer representing the Ayrshire Councils had attended a meeting of the South West Scotland Aviation Group on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. It was reported that discussions were progressing between the developers and the aviation community and consents unit and that the Chief Planner had issued draft correspondence which highlighted that the availability of a mitigation solution does not over-ride other, normal planning considerations, including spatial planning considerations, and determining planning authorities should balance all the material considerations in the normal manner in coming to a view on a proposed development.

**Item 3: Ayrshire Joint Planning Steering Group: Operational Plan**

A report was submitted advising the steering group on the progress made in delivering the work programme approved by the steering group in November 2010. It was noted that that the Joint Planning Service has sought to focus resources on a number of key areas.

These were:

- Developing the partnership working necessary to deliver a “National Green Network” within Ayrshire;
- Progressing the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere toward UNESCO designated status;
- 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 river basin and marine spatial planning processes;
- Supporting development management and development planning through the provision of specialist advice and comment; and
- Reviewing and updating spatial and electronic information on the physical, economic, environmental and social characteristics of Ayrshire.

It was agreed to:

- Note the progress made in delivering the 2010/11 programme; and
- Remit to the Technical Management Team to develop further areas of joint working which offer best value in the period 2011/12.

#### **Item 4: Ayrshire Green Network**

A report was submitted informing the steering group of the completion of the “Ayrshire Green Network Study”. The study recommends the formation of an Ayrshire Green Network Steering Group to develop proposals for an Ayrshire Green Network Partnership and a number of initial strategic work items.

The report was noted and it was agreed:

- that the Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit continues to co-ordinate green network activity within Ayrshire;
- that an officer working group be formed to advise on the development of a partnership within Ayrshire; and
- That an action programme be developed confirming green network priorities. This will include in addition to other matters a revision of woodland and forestry strategy and the development of integrated habitat networks.

#### **Item 5: Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere**

A report was submitted advising on the progress with the proposed UNESCO Biosphere in Galloway and Southern Ayrshire designation. It was noted that:

- An application had been formally submitted to UNESCO well in advance of the September deadline and that a final decision is expected in the late spring of 2012;
- A Biosphere Partnership Board and Biosphere Working Group have been established and these replace the previous Biosphere Steering Group;

- Thematic working groups covering a number of broad areas are being established through a series of themed events; and
- Two Biosphere Development officers have been appointed.

The progress made toward Biosphere designation were noted

#### **Item 6: Review of the Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Strategy**

A report was submitted informing members of the completion of the “Future Forestry & woodland Guidance” study, proposals to review the Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Strategy as a key component of taking forward the National Planning Framework National Development 12 - Central Scotland Green Network and to reconvene the Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Partnership.

The report was noted. It was agreed that:

- The Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Partnership be reconvened and relevant stakeholders be invited to join;
- The partnership as a first priority prepares a replacement for the Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Strategy 2003 with a view to the Strategy being produced as supplementary guidance for the emerging local development plans;
- The Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit act as project coordinators for the preparation of the revised strategy;
- That the strategy takes into account woodland and transport concerns; and
- That the offer of financial resources be accepted from the Forestry Commission Scotland and that work this should commence in July/August 2011.

#### **Item 7: National Marine Plan Pre-Consultation Draft**

A report was submitted which advised members of the publication of a pre-consultation draft of the first National Marine Plan for Scotland. The National Marine Plan will when completed set out strategic objectives for the Scottish Marine area and address important marine challenges such as renewable energy etc.

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 Marine Scotland on the pr-consultation draft of Scotland’s National Marine Plan.

#### **Item 8: National Land Use Strategy**

A report was submitted which advised members of the publication of the Scottish Government’s National Land Use Strategy and to note the Chief Planner’s recommendation to planning authorities that the range of planning decision making processes, which affect land use and the natural environment generally, should take more account of the health of ecosystems and the services they provide.

The issues raised in the report were noted.

**Item 9: Housing Land Audits 2010**

A report was submitted which advised on the progress made with the completion of the housing land audit for the period 2010/17. There followed a discussion on the issues raised by the report and the implications for future housing provision. It was agreed that the completed audit would be published on the web site of the steering group.

The progress made toward completion of the audit was noted.

**Item 10: AOCB**

None

**Item 11: Date of Next Meeting: 10.00am Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

John Esslemont  
Acting Manager  
Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit