
AYRSHIRE JOINT PLANNING STEERING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at 2.00pm on Thursday 30 April 2009 in South Ayrshire Council, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr-

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

In Attendance: Bob Forrest North Ayrshire Council Planning Services Manager; Mike Newall South Ayrshire Council Head of Planning and Enterprise and Christina Cox South Ayrshire Council Planning Manager; Alan Neish East Ayrshire Council Head of Planning and Economic Development; Ian Johnson Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit Manager and John Esslemont Senior Policy Officer Ayrshire joint Planning Unit

Chair: Cllr. Tom Barr

Item 1 Appointment of Chair

As this was the first meeting of the Ayrshire Joint Planning Steering Group it was necessary to appoint a Chair. Cllr Robert McDill (EAC) proposed Cllr. Tom Barr (NAC) and this was seconded by Cllr. Elizabeth McLardy (NAC).

Cllr. Tom Barr was elected Chair unopposed.

Item 2 Apologies

Cllr. Jim Buchanan (EAC).

Item 3 Ayrshire Joint Planning Steering Group: Minute of Agreement

A report was submitted by the Manager (AJPU) giving the background to and enclosing the Minute of Agreement between East Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council on the establishment of the Ayrshire Joint Planning Steering Group.

The main purpose of the Agreement is to facilitate and promote the concept of joint working on planning and related matters through the identification of agreed key tasks that link through to Councils' local development plan preparation and wider council priorities. It was noted the Steering Group did not have executive powers of itself, being a vehicle for discussion of matters of mutual interest and concern. All substantive papers would need to be passed to individual councils for their consideration.

The report was noted and agreed

Item 4 Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit: Working Arrangements

A report was submitted by the Manager (AJPU) of progress in developing a work programme. It was noted at this stage the work programme was at an interim stage whilst the new planning system gained momentum within councils.

The Minute of Agreement identifies in the Terms of Reference tasks to be discharged by AJPU through the Steering Group. These can be broken into five key functions: monitoring and evaluating new strategic directions, specialised topic support, data management and co-ordination, strategic action plans and support for development management.

The report was noted and it was agreed that a report on current items of interest would become a standing item on the Steering Group.

Item 5 Wind Farm Supplementary Planning Guidance 2009

A report on non statutory supplementary planning guidance for wind farm development was submitted by the Manager AJPU for approval in principle and for agreement for the report to be passed to individual councils for their approval.

The Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan contains up to date policies on wind farm development. Subsequently the Scottish Government requested that councils should consider planning frameworks for wind farms and has published detailed guidance as an annexe to Planning Advice Note 45. In order to confirm that structure plan policies continue to be the most up to date available they have been tested against the most recent government advice in Annexe 2 PAN 45.

The proposed supplementary planning guidance reflects that test and confirms that existing structure plan policies are in line with government advice. The proposed guidance therefore in no way alters the existing and approved structure plan policy, though is more explicit in how the policies will be interpreted. Discussion focused on the correct terminology for the title of the report in the light of the changing status and nature of planning guidance under the new planning system.

The Steering Group agreed the finalised report on Wind Farm Supplementary Guidance 2009 and further agreed to pass to individual councils for their approval with a recommendation that officials should give consideration as to how the report can be most effectively entitled to conform to the new planning system.

Item 6 Monitoring the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan – Monitor 2008

A report was submitted by the Manager AJPU outlining the key findings from Monitor 2008, the fifth in a series of reports to monitor structure plan policy. AJPU has monitored strategic policy every two years to reflect the changes in the wider policy environment, pressures for development and changing government priorities. Monitor 2008 shows that despite further improvement to the environment and a general satisfaction with quality of life issues, the fundamental concern of a poorly performing economy and the attendant social consequences present difficult challenges that will provide a background to the new local development plans. It was also noted that climate change issues would become an increasingly significant factor in the planning process.

The report was noted and agreed. Any final textual changes should be indicated to Manager AJPU for inclusion.

Item 7 Draft Housing Land Audit: March 2008

A report was submitted by the Manager AJPU enclosing the draft housing land supply audit covering the period March 2008 to April 2015.

AJPU prepare a consolidated housing land audit for councils across Ayrshire. Based on housing completions between April 2007 and March 2008, the figures show the continued upturn in house building experienced in the last few years and which broadly met the objectives of the approved structure plan. However, they

represent the period immediately before the market downturn and as such are not reflective of the current situation and must be used with caution.

The report was noted and agreed. It was further agreed that a report on the April 2009 figures and private sector housing marketability would be presents at the next meeting of the Steering Group

Item 8 Household Shopping Survey

A report was submitted by the Manager AJPU advising that a survey of household shopping patterns is currently being undertaken to provide essential background data for local development plans and to aid the processing of retail planning applications. A similar exercise was carried out in 1998 and 2003 and the results of the 2009 survey will allow for results to be compared over time.

The report was noted and agreed.

Item 9 Individual Council Update

Each council gave a brief report on progress for introducing the new planning system, particularly in relation to proposals for the introduction of local development plans.

Item 10 Any Other Business

1 AJPU web site

The Manager AJPU circulated a screen dump of the opening page of the new web site for the Steering Group developed from the previous web site of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee. Sections will gradually be filled in over the coming months.

2 Forthcoming Events

Councillors gave the Steering Group an indication of impending local events of interest, including the Darvel Music Festival, the Irvine Valley Walking Festival and the Girvan Folk Festival.

Item 11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 2.00pm on Thursday 19 November 2009 at a venue to be agreed.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

Ian Johnson

Manager Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit