

AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN 2025
SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GROUP
Monday 13th June 2005
Links Road, Prestwick

Present:

Ian Anderson (IA)	Scottish Natural Heritage
Tim Birley (TB)	Facilitator
Zoë Clelland (ZC)	RSPB
June Dawson (JD)	SEPA
Karl Doroszenko (KD)	East Ayrshire Council
John Esslemont (JE)	Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Team
Pauline Gilroy	Communities Scotland
Ian Johnson (IJ)	Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Team (for part of the meeting)
Antony McGuinness (AnM)	East Ayrshire Council
Justina Murray (JM)	North Ayrshire Council
Adrian Shaw (AS)	South Ayrshire Council
Toby Wilson (TW)	Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Team

Apologies

Robin Cole	Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire
Alan Fraser	SEERAD
Alan McGonigle	South West Scotland Energy Agency
Emma Shirley	North Ayrshire Council
Helen Sinclair	East Ayrshire Council

1. Update on the Structure Plan

- Ian Johnson

The finalised Structure Plan is now due to go to the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee in October 2005, it will then be passed to the Local Councils for comment by December 2005 and after final changes will go to the Scottish Executive in early 2006. It would be helpful to have a draft Sustainability Appraisal for the October meeting but not absolutely essential. The Sustainability Appraisal Group should be able to get sight of the finalised Structure Plan in August 2005.

A number of studies which will inform the plan are continuing to be progressed:

- Consultants are just about to be appointed to work on the major waste management study for Ayrshire. This will conclude towards the end of September 2005.
- Work on the location of windfarm developments and their impacts on aviation is nearing conclusion.
- The study examining what infrastructure improvements will be needed to fulfil the housing predictions in the Plan will be finished shortly.
- The Scottish Executive is funding a biomass and hydropower study in Ayrshire which has yet to get underway but will fit in with the Structure Plan timescale.
- A study on access to Ayrshire is still in its early stages and may not report until next year.

The finalised Structure Plan will contain a set of specific criteria for housing and all major developments set within a general requirement for the production of master plans.

2. Taking the Sustainability Appraisal forward

All councils now have a statutory duty to prepare Quality of Life indicators to be used to measure Best Value. It may assist the Local Authorities if the Sustainability Appraisal of the Structure Plan produced a set of indicators that could be used by them as Quality of Life Indicators.

It was felt that ecological footprinting, whilst a useful tool, might be best suited to masterplans rather than use in the Structure Plan.

East Ayrshire Council (EAC) is looking for the Structure Plan to give more guidance on where specific housing sites should be located. AG passed round the EAC spatial options paper which seeks to present options for the location of housing and inform both the Local Plan and Structure Plan. The spatial options will be used to assess any reasonable housing proposals before they are included in the EAC Local Plan. The group discussed whether it was for the Structure Plan to set criteria for the Councils to do the assessment or whether the Structure Plan team should carry out assessments of sites.

Post meeting note: it is now intended that the Structure Plan will include more specific locations for proposed housing development.

It was felt that the Monitor 2000 series of reports were very useful and should provide a basis for developing the assessment and monitoring of the Structure Plan. Following an example presented by TB, it was agreed that distinctions would be made between sustainable development indicators that the Structure Plan can have a direct effect on, such as resource use, ones where it has an indirect effect on such as employment and ones in which it has limited effect on such as pensioner poverty. The monitoring report should continue to include indicators that the Structure Plan has little or no effect on but still in some way capture the Quality of Life in Ayrshire but this distinction should be made clear.

AP

TB to revise the table in light of the group's comments and circulate for any further amendments.

AP

TW and TB to write up minutes of the meeting.

AP

TW to set a date for the next meeting of the group, after the finalisation of the draft Structure Plan.