

AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

Minutes of meeting in East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, Kilmarnock
on 4th March 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Helen Moonie (Chair) and Robert Campbell (South Ayrshire Council); Robert McDill, James Raymond and George Smith (East Ayrshire Council); and John Moffat, Tom Barr and David Munn (North Ayrshire Council).

Apology: Councillor Eddie Bulik (South Ayrshire Council).

Attending: I. McLarty, Head of Planning, Building Standards and Licensing; K. Murray, Head of Strategy and Design Services; and R. McVeigh, Transportation Manager; (South Ayrshire Council); A. Neish, Head of Planning and Building Control; and S. Gillatt, Chief Roads Engineer, K. Doroszenko, Policy and Projects Manager (East Ayrshire Council); B. MacDonald, Assistant Chief Executive; B. Forrest, Planning Services Manager; and J. Mason, Principal Engineer (Traffic and Lighting) (North Ayrshire Council); and John Esslemont, Senior Policy Advisor; and Alec Knox, Transport Policy Officer (Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Team).

Also Attending: A. Gibson, Committee Administrative Officer (South Ayrshire Council).

1. **Presentation by Bob Frost of Ayrshire Woodland Strategy on the Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Partnership.**

The Convener welcomed Mr. Bob Frost of the Ayrshire Woodland Strategy (in attendance for this item only) to the meeting who gave a presentation in respect of the role of the Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Partnership and what had been achieved to date.

Decided: to agree to thank him for his interesting and informative presentation.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting.**

The Minutes of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee of 3rd December 2004 (issued) were submitted and approved.

3. **Matters arising.**

With reference to

- (1) item 8, page 4 bearing the rubric "Renewable Energy – Commercial Windfarms in Ayrshire" and having heard Mr. Neish, Head of Planning and Building Control (North Ayrshire Council), the Committee
 - (a) noted that East Ayrshire Council had held a meeting with PIK regarding this issue;

- (b) noted that COSLA were currently examining ways of developing all forms of renewable energy; and
 - (c) agreed that a meeting be organised between Members of this Committee and other appropriate bodies to take this matter forward; and
- (2) item 2, page 1 bearing the rubric "Matters arising" and having heard Councillor Moonie, the Committee agreed that John Esslemont would contact the three Ayrshire Authorities to ascertain what reports had been considered by their Councils relating to Scottish Water's recent announcement on their Investment Programme.

4. Replacement Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Progress.

The Structure Plan Manager advised that a Panel meeting had been held on 24th February 2004 where a number of issues had been discussed relating to the Replacement Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan.

Decided:

- (1) to note that at that meeting, it had been agreed that the issue of waste management required to be included in the Structure Plan; and
- (2) to agree
 - (a) that an early meeting of senior officers from the three Ayrshire Authorities be convened to discuss issues relating to the replacement Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan; and
 - (b) that progress relating to the replacement Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan would be reported to the June meeting of this Committee.

5. Scottish Planning Policies.

There was submitted a report (issued) of February 2005 by the Structure Plan Manager

- (1) advising of the recent publication by the Scottish Executive of revised Scottish Planning Policy 15 on planning for rural development, Planning Advice Note 72 on rural housing and Planning Advice Note 73 on planning for rural diversification; and
- (2) outlining the implications for strategic planning in Ayrshire.

Decided: to note that each of the three Ayrshire Authorities might wish to consider this matter further, prior to further consideration of this report at the next meeting of this Committee.

5. **Kilmarnock to Glasgow Rail Services.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of February 2004 by the Structure Plan Manager

- (1) advising
 - (a) that Kilmarnock was currently the only major urban centre in the west of Scotland not served by a minimum half-hourly rail service and that the service level to Kilmarnock was dictated by the capacity of the single-track line between Kilmarnock and Barrhead which was limited to, and currently operated at, three trains in both directions per hour;
 - (b) that Network Rail's 2004 Business Plan had acknowledged that detailed work had been undertaken by Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) and the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) to ascertain the feasibility of enhancing the infrastructure between Kilmarnock and Barrhead but had stated that, "there is no planned implementation date for this project"; and
 - (c) that at a meeting of the Ayrshire Transport Group on 12th January 2005 it had been agreed that this perceived lack of progress on the proposed improvement to the Kilmarnock to Glasgow line was concerning and that a joint approach should be made through the Ayrshire Economic Forum and Joint Structure Plan Committee to promote an early realisation of improvements to this line; and
- (2) concluding that with regard to the complexity of the rail industry and state of flux that it was currently undergoing, the Kilmarnock to Barrhead improvements had stagnated and that Network Rail had acknowledged that the project had no planned implementation date and the SPT had also failed to affix a timetable for the implementation of the project.

Decided:

- (i) to note the implications for Kilmarnock of not being served by a minimum half-hourly rail service; and
- (ii) to instruct the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Manager
 - (A) to consult with the Ayrshire Economic Forum on the possibility of developing an appropriate lobbying mechanism to support the improvement of the Kilmarnock to Glasgow rail service and to report back to this Committee after further consideration; and
 - (B) to bring this issue to the attention of Westrans with a view toward their future involvement in any progress.

6. Ayrshire to Edinburgh Rail Services.

There was submitted a report (issued) of February 2005 by the Structure Plan Manager

(1) advising

- (a) that the National Planning Framework had outlined the need to tie Ayrshire more closely into the economy of the Central Belt and to improve accessibility from Ayrshire to the major urban centres in this region and in particular, it had identified that rail services extending beyond Edinburgh and Glasgow to southwest Scotland needed to be improved; and
- (b) that the three Ayrshire local authorities had outlined a desire to improve the connectivity between Ayrshire and the east, and in particular, there was a desire for direct rail services linking Ayrshire to the east, and predominantly Edinburgh and as such the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Team had undertaken an investigation of the scope for implementation of direct rail services between Ayrshire and Edinburgh; and

Decided: to agree that the Structure Plan Manager and the three Ayrshire Authorities should continue to pursue all the mechanisms available to them to press for improved rail services to and from Ayrshire.

7. Date of Next Meeting.

The Joint Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 3rd June 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 3.35 p.m.