

PRESTWICK, 2 December 2005 - At a Meeting of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee in the Municipal Chambers, Links Road, Prestwick at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Councillors Thomas Barr and John Moffat (North Ayrshire Council); Robert McDill, James Raymond and George Smith (East Ayrshire Council); and Helen Moonie, Edward Bulik and Margaret Toner (South Ayrshire Council).

In Attendance

I. Johnson, Structure Plan Manager; J. Esslemont, Senior Policy Advisor; A Knox, Transport Policy Officer; A. Edgar, Policy Officer and N. Wallace, Policy Officer (Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan); R. Mortimer, WESTRANS; A. Neish, Head of Planning and Building Control (East Ayrshire Council); I. McLarty, Head of Planning and Design Standards and R. McVeigh, Transport Manager (South Ayrshire Council); R. Forrest, Planning Services Manager (Development and Promotion); J. Mason, Principal Engineer (Property Services) and M. Anderson, Corporate and Democratic Support Officer (Chief Executive's) (North Ayrshire Council).

Chair

Councillor Thomas Barr (North Ayrshire Council) in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Councillors David Munn and John Reid (North Ayrshire Council); Eric Ross (East Ayrshire Council); and Robert Campbell (South Ayrshire Council).

1. Minutes

Submitted the Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Committee held on 2 September 2005.

The Joint Committee approved the Minutes of the last meeting.

2. Matters Arising

With reference to item 1, it was agreed that (a) the Structure Plan Manager seek an update from Strathclyde Passenger Transport on the future of rail services in Ayrshire; and (b) this matter be reported to the next ordinary meeting of the Joint Committee.

3. Joint Committee Meetings 2006

Submitted report by the Clerk on proposed dates and venues for Structure Plan meetings during 2006.

The Joint Committee noted that meetings of the Joint Committee in 2006 will take place as follows, with all meetings commencing at 2.00 p.m.:-

Date	Venue
Friday 3 March 2006	East Ayrshire Council Council Headquarters London Road Kilmarnock
Friday 2 June 2006	North Ayrshire Council Cunninghame House Irvine
Friday 1 September 2006	South Ayrshire Council County Buildings Wellington Square Ayr
Friday 1 December 2006	Joint Structure Plan Offices Municipal Chambers Links Road Prestwick

4. Exclusion of Public

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

5. Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan 2005-2025: Finalised Draft

Submitted report by the Joint Structure Plan Manager on the Joint Structure Plan 2005-2025: Finalised Draft.

During 2003, the Joint Committee agreed to the preparation of a second Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan to replace the Plan originally approved by Scottish Ministers in January 2000. A consultation draft of the Plan was agreed in June 2004 subject to a consultation exercise during the summer of 2004. Whilst there was widespread support for the main thrust of the strategy to stabilise the population, there were several key points requiring further evaluation, including the need to clarify sustainable growth, the balance between regeneration and new housing land release, apparent infrastructure constraint, a detailed assessment of waste management and retailing, the need to broaden the scope of renewable energy policy and further assessment of housing options. A revised draft Plan taking account of these issues has now been prepared and is contained in the Appendix to the report.

A Key Diagram is a statutory requirement of any Structure Plan submission to Scottish Ministers and will be drawn up on the basis of the original plans contained in the Consultation Draft, modified to take account of any subsequent change. A Sustainability Appraisal will also be concluded. Most Development Plans in Scotland now attach a separate Action Plan which, although non statutory, sets the context for future actions required by the policies and proposals in the Plan.

The Joint Committee agreed (a) to approve the draft Plan as set out in the Appendix to the report for consideration by the 3 Ayrshire Authorities, with the exception of the housing figures and associated text contained in COMMs 2-3, which are not approved and which will be the subject of further consideration, and subject to (i) acknowledgement that the definition of search areas in relation to waste policy will be the subject of separate formal notification by the 3 Councils; (ii) the merging of COMMs 5 and 6 under a single heading of "Housing in the Countryside"; (iii) the insertion of a section of the implementation of affordable housing policies, recognising the role of Communities Scotland, with an appropriate policy inclusion; and (iv) the Joint Structure Plan Manager being authorised to make minor editorial changes to the Structure Plan document as necessary; (b) that it be remitted to Officers from the 3 Councils and the Structure Plan Team to formulate the Key Diagram based on the technical wording within the Plan; (c) that the outstanding issue of the housing figures and accompanying text within the draft Plan be the subject of further consideration at a Special Meeting of the Joint Committee to be held at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 20 January 2006 at Cunninghame House, Irvine; and (d) that it be remitted to the Structure Plan Manager to facilitate a Chairs' meeting early in the New Year prior to the Special Meeting of the Joint Committee.

The meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.