

AYRSHIRE COUNCILS ARE FIRST TO SUBMIT STRUCTURE PLAN

East, North and South Ayrshire Councils became the first local authorities in Scotland to submit their Joint Structure Plan to the Secretary of State for his approval.

Also as a first for Scotland the Councils launched the Joint Structure Plan web-site giving access to information on the plan.

Said Councillor Jim Collins, current Chairman of the Ayrshire Joint Committee: “The plan sets out our jointly held vision for the future of Ayrshire in the 21st century, but still respects the different needs of each individual Council area.”

Councillor Jim Collins added: “If formally approved by the Secretary of State, the plan will set the context for land use planning in Ayrshire for the next twenty years”

Councillor Drew McIntyre of East Ayrshire and Councillor David Munn, North Ayrshire, both former chairmen of the Joint Committee also helped launch the web-site.

They all agreed that the Joint Structure Plan should be a model for the delivery of strategic planning in the future through local government working in partnership with each other and with many other agencies.

The plan is based on four key elements:

- the need to create an environment in which job creation and investment can flourish.
- a concentration of development in communities.
- the protection of the environment.

- the development of a sustainable approach to decision-making.

Commenting on the plan, Ian Johnson, Manager of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan, said “We have consulted extensively on our proposals throughout Ayrshire, both with the communities, with business industry and the many agencies that together will make the plan work. In presenting the plan we have sought to make it as short and non-technical as we can to ensure that what we are saying can be readily understood.”

The plan has already been through two extensive consultation exercises throughout Ayrshire over the last two years, but still cannot be approved by the Secretary of State until one more final consultation stage. Anybody who wishes to make representation about aspects of the plan can do so before 22 April directly to the Secretary of State. The plan is available in council offices and public libraries and directly from the Structure Plan’s offices in Prestwick as well as from the web-site.

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