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Your ref: 2/2/IJ/EN

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Ian Johnson  
Manager  
Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan &  
Transportation Committee  
15 Links Road  
Prestwick  
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Dear Mr Johnson

### **Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan 2025: Consultation Draft**

Thank you for your letter of June 2004 consulting **sportscotland** on the above document.

We note that the main focus of the plan is on the spatial development strategy, investing in communities and environmental protection.

With regards to investing in and sustaining communities, the Plan deals only briefly with the issue of local community facilities and infrastructure. Such facilities are an important contributor to quality of life within communities, and a factor in encouraging investment and retaining population, both key aims of the Plan. **sportscotland** recommends that the Plan gives stronger guidance to subsequent local plans on the need to appraise the existing networks of community facilities and to identify deficiencies and investment opportunities. This could perhaps be done using the settlement hierarchy as the basis for determining the optimum distribution of each type of facility.

Sports facilities and recreational open space are both examples of such community facilities. We recommend that the Plan directs each local authority to undertake a strategic assessment of its existing network of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities and on the adequacy of this network to meet current and future requirements. In doing so, the strategies should take account of proposed major housing growth in both planning future facility requirements and in seeking developer contributions towards future investment in facilities. Such strategies, by establishing the capacity of existing facilities, may also assist in finalising the appropriate levels of housing development which can be accommodated in each settlement.

The Councils have rightly identified the recreational potential of the Ayrshire Countryside and coast. The Plan should give positive guidance to Local Plans on the need to facilitate access to the countryside and to develop a core path network. Planning for recreation should also be an essential component of integrated coastal zone management. The Ayrshire coast contains internationally significant sporting

resources (watersports and golf being the most notable examples) and it is important that planning for the coast allows the potential of these resources to be realised. Finally, former mineral extraction sites may also offer an opportunity for recreation, for example watersports and perhaps motorsports.

I trust the above comments are of assistance in preparing the Finalised Plan, and am happy to discuss any of the issues raised in this response if required.

Yours sincerely

David Liddell  
Facilities Development