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**AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
8 DECEMBER 2000**

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**The Scottish Climate Change Programme**

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To advise the Committee of the implications of the recently published report “The Scottish Climate Change Programme”.

BACKGROUND

- 2 The Committee will recall that there have been several consultation papers presented on the Government’s drive to combat and adapt to the effects of climate change. In June 2000 the Committee’s response was given to the Scottish Executive. Since then, the Scottish Climate Change Programme was launched in November 2000, setting out measures to help deliver the UK Kyoto commitment and contribution to the UK domestic goal of reducing carbon dioxide by 20% by 2010 through reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland which both links to and complements the UK Climate Change Programme, which has been launched in parallel. This paper will concentrate on the extent to which the Committee’s comments have been incorporated into the Scottish Climate Change Programme as well as highlighting key areas of importance for strategic planning in Ayrshire.

SCOTTISH CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME

- 3 The Committee made four main points on the consultative draft and these have been dealt with in the Programme in the following ways:-
  - In respect of the role of planning the Scottish Executive will now review National Planning Policy Guidelines: Land for Housing (NPPG 3); Town Centres and Retailing (NPPG 8); Transport and Planning (NPPG 17) in the context of climate change. The Scottish Executive highlight that the planning system has a role to play in a variety of land use concerns with climate change impacts. For example in residential new build on brownfield sites and restrictions on car access to central areas. There is also a revised guideline on Renewable Energy NPPG 6 (the draft of which was circulated to the Committee in June 2000 and the point made that the Structure Plan is consistent with the revised Guideline) which provides for

renewable energy development in Structure Plans and Local Plans. The Executive do not intend to produce, as suggested by Committee, separate guidance or advice on climate assessments and climate change considerations within development plans but rather planning will be expected to participate through the implementation of National Policy Planning Guidelines cited above as well as through NPPG1 The Planning System;

- In assessing the Scottish contribution to reducing greenhouse emissions, it is recognised by the Executive, that there is a need for higher resolution climate data and impact studies. Therefore they have commissioned further research from Centre for the Study of Environmental Change and Sustainability at Edinburgh University to complement and inform work on developing a Scottish Adaptation Strategy. This work will not be complete until Spring 2001 and in the interim they have commissioned work to develop scenarios of existing Scottish data and provide a network of 50 kilometre squares to cover the Scottish mainland and islands. Early indications show that there is a small increase in winter warming and a significant change in the summer precipitation gradient between the west and east with the former being wetter;
- Assessing the impact at a local level requires the need for localised scenarios stated the Committee, in effect conclusive measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly at the Ayrshire coast. However, in acknowledgement of the absence of data and information at local level, the Executive has commissioned research of Scottish regional scenarios of climate change which will be published early 2001 and will inform the development of a Scottish Adaptation Strategy;
- In terms of supporting the Renewable Energy target of around 18% by 2010 there is no detail within the Programme as how to this would be achieved on a regional level or of how it could be apportioned. However it is recognised that there are differences in the power generation mix between Scotland and the UK. The Programme highlights that emissions from the energy supply industry has rising significantly from 1990-1998 due to increased exports of electricity to England.

#### IMPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING IN AYRSHIRE

- 4 The Programme highlights a range of measures which could have implications for strategic planning in Ayrshire and these are summarised below:-
- The proposals to increase the research base will ultimately provide more information and data to develop at a regional level and inform strategic planning issues in the context of climate change for transport, agriculture, forestry and other land use matters;
  - The proposal to produce annually an inventory of greenhouse gases for Scottish levels including their sectoral split between business, transport, agriculture and domestic use will provide a more detailed analysis of Scotland's contribution to

combating the effects of climate change. It may be the case that this inventory could potentially be disaggregated at a regional level and this could provide Structure Plan indicators of sustainability through the monitoring process.

- The Report by The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, cited in the Programme, will be reviewed by the Scottish Executive and provide longer-term challenges which may ultimately cascade down to regional level and influence monitoring of strategic planning matters.
- The Executive will support the planting of new woodland for economic, social and environmental benefits including the 'carbon sink' effect (Scotland has around 50% of the UK 'carbon sink' capacity, whereby plants and trees absorb and keep lock up carbon from the atmosphere), which will have an impact on existing forestry strategies.
- The intention to review the Programme, monitor policies and track annual emissions levels leading to a formal review of UK and Scottish Programmes in 2004 ensures that climate change and adaptation to climate change will remain high on the agenda for land use planning.

## CONCLUSION

- 5 The document is a welcome vehicle to develop debate on the issues of climate change and adaptation policies. The Programme allows the planning system as a whole to consider the impacts of climate change and adaptations in the context of National Planning Policy Guidelines whilst continuing the dialogue through new information as research projects come to fruition. The Programme highlights targets, which could potentially be developed at a regional level and could be part of possible future agendas for strategic land use planning.

## RECOMMENDATION

- 6 That the Committee note the contents of this report.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

DETR - UK Programme Climate Change  
 Scottish Executive - Scottish Climate Change Programme

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