

Our Ref: JSM/LM

23 December 2003

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Joint Ayrshire Structure Plan Team  
15 Links Road  
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SOUTH AYRSHIRE  
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Dear Sir

**AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN 2025**

I refer to the opportunity to respond to the issues outlined in your latest publication regarding the above.

I can advise that we are instructed by John Thomson Construction Limited, Lamlash in the Isle of Arran to bring to your attention the various economic development pressures the Isle is currently experiencing.

Prior to discussing these important matters for the Isle of Arran, you will obviously be aware that the Local Plan has recently been considered at Inquiry. At the Inquiry, some of the major emerging issues related to the lack of housing on the Island and the restrictive planning policies therein. In this regard, particular attention should be considered by yourselves in relation to the following:-

1. The Isle of Arran has experienced considerable population growth in the last number of years. This is identified in the recent 2001 Census information. It is recognised by all interested parties and professional bodies that there is a lack of suitable residential accommodation of all tenures on the Island. There is insufficient residential sites available to fulfil the demand. It is therefore specifically requested that the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team acknowledges the population growth and recommends through the Structure Plan that the Local Planning Authority identifies suitable effective sites for the requisite period.
2. It is also specifically requested that the Planning Authorities liaise closely with the major landowners and house builder (John Thomson Construction Limited) in the preparation of lists for effective sites or future development land.

3. It is specifically requested, the Structure Plan recognises the Island economy and that planning policies should be in line with such rural policies as those promoted by the Argyll & Bute Structure Plan. It is a criticism of the existing North Ayrshire Local Plan that the policies contained therein, as directed by the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan relates mainly to mainland policies. It must be recognised that the Isle of Arran is unique in character, particularly in terms of economy. The fragile nature of the Island's economy must be addressed and this can be achieved through appropriate flexible planning policies.
4. In this regard, the existing Structure Plan Policies for the Isle are considered restrictive and should reflect the correct rural classification in terms of mobility and time taken to reach urban centres that is the mainland.

In summary, the Isle of Arran is experienced in considerable growth, yet the planning policies at both Structure and Local Plan levels are considered too restrictive. If the Isle is to maintain its growth, as directed by Scottish Planning Policy Guidelines No. 1, 2 and 3 the Structure Plan should take cognisance of this and promote suitable policies.

I would like to take this opportunity to request a meeting with yourselves and the key stakeholders on the Isle of Arran to discuss. It is considered that this approach will allow you and your colleagues to properly understand the sensitive nature of the Island's economy.

Please acknowledge this response.

Yours faithfully

**J. Stuart MacGarvie**  
**Director**

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