

## **AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

Minutes of meeting in Cunningham House, North Ayrshire Council  
on 4th June 2004 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Helen Moonie (Chair), Eddie Bulik and Margaret Toner (South Ayrshire Council); Robert McDill and George Smith (East Ayrshire Council); and John Moffat and David Munn (North Ayrshire Council).

Apologies: Councillors Robert Campbell (South Ayrshire Council) and Eric Ross (East Ayrshire Council).

Attending: I. McLarty, Head of Planning, Building Standards and Licensing; K. Murray; Head of Strategy and Design Services; and R. McVeigh, Transportation Manager; (South Ayrshire Council); A. Neish, Head of Planning and Building Control; and J. Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation (East Ayrshire Council); B. MacDonald, Assistant Chief Executive and B. Forrest, Principal Planning Officer and J. Mason, Principal Engineer (Traffic and Lighting) (North Ayrshire Council); Ian Johnson, Structure Plan Manager; and John Esslemont, Senior Policy Advisor (Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Team).

Also

Attending: A. Gibson, Committee Administrative Officer.

### **1. Chair's Remarks.**

The Chair welcomed representatives from Poland to the meeting, who were on secondment to North Ayrshire Council.

### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

The Minutes of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee of 26th March 2004 (issued) were submitted and approved.

### **3. Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan 2025.**

With reference to the Minutes of 26th March 2004 (Page 2, paragraph 5) when it had been agreed to approve the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan 2025: Consultation Draft and to submit it to the East, North and South Ayrshire Councils for their agreement for the document to undergo public consultation, the Structure Plan Manager advised

- (1) that the document had now been considered by the three Ayrshire Authorities, with no substantive changes having been made; and
- (2) that extensive consultation would now take place over a ten week period commencing around 18th June 2004.

**Decided:** to note the position meantime.

#### 4. **Monitoring the Structure Plan – Monitor 2004.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of May 2004 by the Structure Plan Manager

- (1) advising
  - (a) that it had been recognised that it was vital that Structure Plans be kept up-to-date and regularly monitored and to respond to changing circumstance;
  - (b) that the approved Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan had indicated that a monitoring statement should be prepared on a two-yearly cycle;
  - (c) that to meet this commitment, the Committee had prepared, since 2000, a bi-annual monitoring statement; and
  - (d) that Monitor 2004, continued the format of the two previous documents and, rolled forward the original indicators and updated previous commentary; and
- (2) concluding that Monitor 2004 showed that, despite further improvement to the environment through capital investment and a general satisfaction with "quality of life" issues, the problem of a poorly performing economy and its attendant poverty continued to be the dominating feature noted in the last three monitoring reports.

**Decided:** to agree

- (i) to note the contents of the report;
- (ii) to approve Monitor 2004 for circulation to the Scottish Executive, Ayrshire Economic Forum, and Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and to each of the three Ayrshire Councils for their information and use in supporting Ayrshire's case for resources, subject to an amendment to page 9 of the Monitor 2004 report, to reflect the accurate position of progress relating to progress on Water and Sewerage improvements;
- (iii) that the concerns relating to Scottish Water be addressed at a joint meeting of this Committee and the Ayrshire Economic Forum after the summer recess; and
- (iv) to grant authority to the Structure Plan Manager to make further textual changes as necessary to Monitor 2004 prior to final publication on the Committee's web site.

**5. Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan 2025: Results of Consultation on Key Issues.**

With reference to the Minutes of 5th September 2003 (Page 1, paragraph 2), there was submitted a report (issued) of May 2004 by the Structure Plan Manager

- (1) detailing the results of the consultation exercise on the issues to be included in the Replacement Joint Structure Plan; and
- (2) advising
  - (a) that an initial consultation process through the publication of an Issues Pamphlet had been launched in late 2003 as part of the formal advertising sequence to start a new joint Structure Plan; and
  - (b) that as a result, a wide variety of different comments had been made on various aspects that should be addressed as part of the new Plan with most having been considered as part of the Plan preparation and some would need further work during the formal consultation stage.

**Decided:** to note the contents of the report.

**6. Housing Land Supply in Ayrshire.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of May 2004 by the Structure Plan Manager

- (1) advising
  - (a) that changes had been made in the housing land supply for Ayrshire during the period April 2002 to March 2003;
  - (b) that the National Planning Guideline entitled "Planning for Housing (SPP3)" and the Planning Advice Note entitled, "Structure Plans: Housing Land Requirements (PAN38)" had recommended that a housing audit be undertaken on an annual basis; and
  - (c) that the Advice also advised that Planning Authorities should provide for a minimum five year supply of housing land that was 'effective' and was subsequently agreed to be by all relevant parties (local authorities, the house building industry and Communities Scotland);
- (2) detailing the analysis of this audit which has recently been completed, following a meeting between Homes for Scotland (representing the house building industry), the three Ayrshire Councils, the Joint Structure Plan Unit and Scottish Water; and

- (3) concluding
  - (a) that the results of this year's audit had shown a fall in the level of house completions compared to the earlier half of the last decade; and
  - (b) that the greatest reduction in output had been in East Ayrshire, reflecting the completion of large greenfield sites in the North of Kilmarnock.

**Decided:**

- (i) to note the contents of this report; and
- (ii) that the Structure Plan Manager be authorised to forward a copy of the Housing Land Audit to Homes for Scotland and Communities Scotland, as the finalised Audit for 2003.

**7. National Planning Framework.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of May 2004 by the Structure Plan Manager

- (1) advising
  - (a) that the Scottish Executive had recently published the National Planning Framework for Scotland which had emerged from the Review of Strategic Planning in 2001 and was a step along the way to replacing Structure Plans for all but the four city-regions; and
  - (b) that the Framework had been seen as a key element in the package of measures to modernise and reform the planning system; and
- (2) detailing the implications for Ayrshire.

**Decided:** to note the contents of this report.

**8. Scottish River Basin Management Planning Strategy.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of May 2004 by the Structure Plan Manager

- (1) advising
  - (a) that the European Water Framework Directive had come into force in 2000 to establish new and better ways of protecting, improving and using Europe's rivers, lochs, estuaries, coasts and groundwater;
  - (b) that the Directive had been translated into Scots law via the water and Environment Services (Scotland) Act 2003; and

- (c) that in order to deliver the Act, it had been agreed by the Scottish Executive that Scotland would require a river basin planning management system and that SEPA had been given the lead role of developing and implementing the appropriate systems; and
- (2) detailing the proposed response by the Structure Plan Manager to SEPA on their consultation on the matter.

**Decided:** to agree that the response, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, form the comments of this Joint Committee to the Scottish Executive in respect of this consultation.

## **9. Developing a Strategic Framework for Scotland's Marine Environment.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of May 2004 by the Structure Plan Manager

- (1) advising
  - (a) that the Scottish Executive was seeking views on their consultation paper entitled "Developing a Strategic Framework for Scotland's Marine Environment"; and
  - (b) that the consultation paper set out the background to the ecological, economic and social importance of the marine environment and the pressures on it and sought to identify how best to deliver sustainable development of marine resources; and
- (2) detailing the views of the Structure Plan Manager on the consultation.

**Decided:** to agree

- (i) to note the contents of this report;
- (ii) that the comments of the Structure Plan Manager, as detailed in the report, be sent to the Scottish Executive as the views of the Joint Committee on the consultation; and
- (iii) that the three Ayrshire Councils be advised of these views in any preparation of their own comments on the consultation.

**10. Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Strategy.**

With reference to the Minutes of the 7th March 2003 (Page 6, paragraph 6), there was submitted a report (issued) of May 2004 by the Structure Plan Manager

- (1) advising of progress being made in the development of the Ayrshire Woodland Strategy; and
- (2) concluding
  - (a) that a jointly funded post of Project Co-ordinator had been filled on a temporary contract until 2006, for the development of the Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Strategy; and
  - (b) that an initial work programme had been identified with five key themes to be developed over the next six months.

**Decided:** to note the contents of this report.

**11. Date of next meeting.**

The Joint Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 3rd September 2004 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.