

AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting in Municipal Chambers, Links Road, Prestwick
on 8th March 2002 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Samuel Gooding (Chair) (North Ayrshire Council); Robert McDill, Eric Ross and George Smith (East Ayrshire Council); and Ian Stewart and Margaret Toner (South Ayrshire Council).

Apologies: Councillors Thomas Barr, David Munn and Robert Reilly (North Ayrshire Council); Jim Raymond (East Ayrshire Council); and Gordon McKenzie and Paul Torrance (South Ayrshire Council).

Attending: B. MacDonald, Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion); R. Forrest, Principal Planning Officer and N. Buchan, Head of Roads (North Ayrshire Council); K. Doroszentio, (Policy and Projects Manager, Planning and Building Control) and J. Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation (East Ayrshire Council); and J.G. Peterkin, Director of Development, Safety and Regulation; I. McLarty, Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing; R. McVeigh, Traffic and Transportation Manager (South Ayrshire Council); and Ian Johnson, Structure Plan and Transportation Manager; and John Esslemont, Senior Policy Advisor (Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Team).

Also

Attending: A. Gibson, Committee Administrative Officer.

1. Appointment of Chair.

The Committee agreed, in Councillor McKenzie's absence, that Councillor Gooding Chair this meeting.

2. Presentation by Dr. M. Reed, Director General, Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive.

Having heard Dr. M. Reed, Director General, Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive make a presentation regarding the proposed "Crossrail" options and having heard questions, the Committee

- (1) thanked him for his presentation;
- (2) agreed that Councils should support the proposals; and
- (3) that the Structure Plan Manager should discuss with Dr M Reed the best means of providing that support.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee of 7th December 2001 (issued) were submitted and approved subject to a typographical error in the sederunt.

3. **Matters Arising.**

With reference to the Minutes of 7th December 2001 (Page 1, paragraph 2(3)) and having heard the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager, the Committee

- (1) noted the contents of a report (tabled) by the Scottish Executive Central Research Unit in relation to the analysis of responses to the consultation regarding the Review of Strategic Planning; and
- (ii) agreed that any comments on the document should be passed to the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager as soon as possible.

4. **Planning Audit - Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of February 2002 by the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager

- (1) advising
 - (a) that each year, the Scottish Executive reviewed the performance of a small number of Planning Departments in Scotland and although originally intending to assist the process of speeding up development control decisions, in 2000 this was extended to include the development plan process;
 - (b) that North Ayrshire Council had been assessed as part of the 2001 Councils and, as an integral part of that Council's development plan regime, it had been decided to audit the Joint Structure Plan and Transport team as well; and
 - (c) that the audit of the Joint Structure Plan and Transportation team was contained in a separate chapter of the North Ayrshire Council audit but because of issues of confidentiality was also issued separately; and
- (2) concluding
 - (a) that the comments on the working of the team were generally favourable with both the Joint Structure Plan itself, the method of production and the management and administrative functions being commented on favourably; and
 - (b) that within this generally favourable assessment, the Scottish Executive's audit team had suggested more points for action to improve performance further, namely:-
 - (i) geographic information system (GIS);
 - (ii) clerical support;
 - (iii) training, job descriptions and appraisals; and
 - (iv) links with Councils.

These were now being developed by the Joint Structure Plan and Transportation team.

After consideration and having heard the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager, the Committee

- (A) noted the contents of the report; and
- (B) agreed that the report be passed to the Scottish Executive to advise them of the position.

5. **Getting Involved in Planning.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of February 2002 by the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager

- (1) advising
 - (a) that the Scottish Executive was carrying out a review of existing arrangements to enable people to become involved in the planning process;
 - (b) that the consultation document was complex and posed many fundamental questions about the detailed workings of the local planning system, particularly at a development control level, but there were however a small number of issues raised that could impact on the strategic planning process, namely:-
 - (i) consultation associated with the production of a development plan;
 - (ii) advertisement of the development plan; and
 - (iii) the process of public engagement; and
 - (c) that the main aim of the paper was to build greater public involvement in planning without holding up decision making or undermining the decision-takers and for the full range of implications it had to be read in conjunction with the previous "Review of Strategic Planning" as both to some extent covered the possible changes to the statutory development plan process and their possible impact;
- (2) detailing the consultation associated with the development plan, the advertisement of the development plan and the process of public engagement; and
- (3) concluding that "Getting Involved in Planning" represented a substantial change to the local planning process and it had implications for strategic planning, in that certain elements could apply to the way that Councils consult at a plan preparation stage that were not covered either by this consultation or the "Review of Strategic Planning".

After consideration and having heard the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager and having heard questions, the Committee agreed that this report be passed to the Scottish Executive as the views of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee, subject to the Scottish Executive also being advised

- (a) that extending the period for making representations would delay the planning process considerably; and
- (b) that the suggestion of regular national consultation to identify problems and good practice in Scotland was a direct contradiction to what the First Minister had previously intimated.

The Committee paper was to be revised accordingly.

6. Consultation Draft of National Planning Policy Guideline - NPPG2 (Revised 2002).

There was submitted a report (issued) of February 2002 by the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager

- (1) advising
 - (a) that there was a Consultation by the Scottish Executive Development Department on a revision to National Planning Policy Guideline, Economic Development, (NPPG2);
 - (b) that the draft guidance sought to build on the Executive's vision set out in the "Framework for Economic Development in Scotland" by ensuring that "economic development should raise the quality of life of the Scottish people through increasing economic opportunities for all, on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis";
 - (c) that the revised NPPG dealt with how the planning system could assist in achieving this objective within Scotland while taking account of the wider social and environmental agendas and, when finalised, this guidance would replace NPPG2: Business and Industry, which had been issued in 1993;
 - (d) that the guidance sought to address four key objectives, namely:-
 - (i) to ensure a portfolio of sites were identified which provided range and choice for new employment opportunity;
 - (ii) to ensure development would in the future take place in sustainable locations, specifically ensuring that better integration between transport provision and locations for economic investment were made;
 - (iii) to ensure the environmental resource was adequately protected and also that new development could contribute to environmental quality through a high standard of design; and
 - (iv) to ensure a positive culture of dialogue between local authorities and business took place to enhance economic competitiveness; and

- (e) that the need for the review had been prompted by the recognition that the planning system could facilitate economic development in Scotland by responding positively to changing market aspirations and requirements; and

- (2) detailing the implications for Ayrshire.

After consideration and having heard the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager, the Committee

- (A) noted the contents of the report; and
- (B) agreed that the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager prepare a response on the draft NPPG2 for the Chair's signature.

7. The Future of Scotland's Waters - Proposals for Legislation.

There was submitted a report (issued) of February 2002 by the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager

- (1) advising
 - (a) that a second consultation document on transposing the Water Framework Directive into legislation entitled "The Future of Scotland's Waters - Proposals for Legislation" had been produced which set out the potential provisions for the forthcoming Bill; and
 - (b) that the document had around fifty provisions which could be included in the forthcoming Bill;
- (2) detailing issues of particular relevance to strategic planning and the Ayrshire context; and
- (3) concluding that legislation arising out of this consultation process would be introduced to Parliament in May 2002 and it was crucial that the mechanism of delivery ensured that the key elements of the Water Framework Directive were clearly reflected in the Bill.

After consideration and having heard the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager, the Committee agreed

- (i) that the basis of this report would form the comments of this Committee to the Scottish Executive, subject to concerns regarding
 - (A) the accountability of SEPA as lead agents in this respect
 - (B) the importance of the water quality being improved; and
 - (C) the precedence this legislation may have over other legislation such as the Structure Plan; and
- (ii) that the three Ayrshire Councils be advised of these views in preparation of their own comments.

8. A Transportation Context for Ayrshire.

With reference to the Minutes of 7th September 2001 (Page 3, paragraph 7) when it had been suggested that a document on transport issues should be presented in order to strengthen the Ayrshire element of the WESTRANS/SPT Joint Transport Strategy and to provide a context for joint action, there was submitted a report (issued) of February 2002 by the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Manager

- (1) advising
 - (a) that a "Transportation Context for Ayrshire" had been prepared which sought to summarise the key transport issues and joint policy objectives in Ayrshire and set the scene for a future work programme;
 - (b) that as well as providing an Ayrshire perspective into the WESTRANS/SPT strategy, the Context would feed into the publication of a Transport Monitoring report to be produced by the Committee in June and also provide the basis for any potential future review of the Joint Structure Plan itself; and
 - (c) that it sought to add value to transport in Ayrshire by ensuring consistency of policy across the three Council boundaries, setting priorities, encouraging partnership working providing a strategic context for the future development of local transport strategies and offering a stronger case for receiving additional funding; and
- (2) concluding that a transport-related document had been produced which provided a context for Transport Monitor 2002 and set the scene for strengthening, repositioning or expanding existing structure plan policies in the future and seeking to set priorities, ensure consistency of transport policy across Ayrshire and encourage joint working.

After consideration and having heard Structure Plan and Transportation Manager, the Committee agreed

- (i) that the principles outlined in the draft document entitled "A Transportation Context for Ayrshire" be approved and the priority areas of joint action as detailed in the report;
- (ii) the report should be passed to the Ayrshire Economic Forum for their interest; and
- (iii) the Chairman of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee should write to the Chairman of the Ayrshire Economic Forum with the aim of establishing stronger links between this Committee and the Forum on strategic planning and transportation matters such as Items 6, 8 and 10 of this Committee where there are strong links to the economic future of the area.

9. Recent Transport Publications.

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of February 2002 by the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager detailing a number of recent transport publications and consultation documents that could have implications for Ayrshire authorities.

10. Draft NPPG17 Addendum: Maximum Parking Standards.

There was submitted a report (issued) of February 2002 by the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager

- (1) advising
 - (a) that in 1999, National Planning Policy Guideline 17 on Transport and Planning had introduced a change from minimum to maximum parking standards and had outlined that further guidance would be issued;
 - (b) that, subsequently, on 1st February 2002 the Scottish Executive had published a consultative Draft Addendum to NPPG17 on maximum car parking standards;
 - (c) that the document set out national maximum standards for a small range of significant travel generating land use types where the proposed development was greater than the specified size thresholds and provided advice to Councils on the implementation of such maximum parking standards;
- (2) detailing the contents of Draft NPPG17 Addendum, the regulatory impact assessment and the implications for Ayrshire;
- (3) concluding that local authorities must devise their own set of standards and publish these in their Local Transport Strategies and that Structure Plan Committees were expected to adopt a policy of implementing maximum standards for a wide range of land uses in their area.

After consideration and having heard the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager and following questions, the Committee agreed

- (A) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (B) that before responding to the Scottish Executive, the views from three Ayrshire Councils be sought in order to prepare a co-ordinated response.

11. Date of Next Meeting.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 7th June 2002 at 10.00 a.m. in the Municipal Chambers, Links Road, Prestwick.

12. Date of Future Meetings.

Having heard the Structure Plan and Transportation Manager, the Committee noted the following dates for forthcoming meetings of this Committee, all of which would be held in the Municipal Chambers, Links Road, Prestwick:-

6th September 2002 at 10.00 a.m.;

6th December 2002 at 10.00 a.m.;

7th March 2003 at 10.00 a.m.; and

6th June 2003 at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.