

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
**STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL**

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
on 25th August 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors John Allan (Chair), Ian Douglas, Ann Galbraith, Bill Grant, Hugh Hunter, Elaine Little, Alec Oattes and Philip Saxton.

Attending: H. Garland, Executive Director – Children and Community; B. McInroy, Head of Service and School Management; J. Cronin, Policy and Strategy Manager; D. Burns, Manager (Housing Policy and Strategy); C. Bradshaw, Assistant Public Communications Officer; and A. Gerrish, Committee Administrative Officer.

**1. Variation in order of business.**

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 10, the Panel agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting.**

**Decided:** to note the Minutes of the meeting of 25th August 2010 (issued).

**3. Item for Call-in – Interim Accommodation Project.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Leadership Panel of 17th August 2010 (Page 394, paragraph 2) when that Panel, having considered a report (issued) of 2nd August 2010 by the Executive Director – Children and Community, decided to approve the development of an Interim Accommodation Project as outlined in section 4 of the report.

The Panel was advised that the report had been the subject of a call-in for the following reasons:-

- (1) section 3.2 was “Light in Content” – what are the reasons for leaving the family home? – are there unemployment, drink or drugs issues?;
- (2) section 3.5 – what does this really mean?;
- (3) section 4.1 – are we led to believe there are no P.S.L.s in “Ayr Town Centre”? - is there evidence of a good track record of “landlord repairs”?;
- (4) section 4.2 – despite assertions regarding landlord repairs – can an explanation be given in respect of “landlord neglect” that led to Ayr Regeneration at public expense?
- (5) has a risk impact assessment been undertaken with regard to the well being of the retail sector in Ayr Town Centre due to the inordinate number of “state dependent households”?
- (6) has an impact assessment in respect of neighbours been carried out?;

- (7) where are “the flats” located– is it a cluster of 4?;
- (8) who is the landlord? and what tender process was followed to achieve Best Value?;  
and
- (9) what assurance can be given in respect of the risk of anti-social behaviour, e.g. powers to end tenancies quickly?.

The Chair invited Councillor Grant to explain his reasons for the call-in and, thereafter, the Panel heard Councillor Grant seek clarification on the points outlined at (1) to (9) above and the Executive Director – Children and Community, the Policy Strategy Manager and the Manager for Housing Policy and Strategy responded accordingly.

A full discussion took place on this matter and various questions and comments were raised and clarification sought by Members of the Panel in relation to the report and the wider issues of social concerns within Ayr Town Centre and the Executive Director – Children and Community, the Policy Strategy Manager and the Manager (Housing Policy and Strategy) responded accordingly. The Executive Director - Children and Community intimated that he would arrange a meeting for all Elected Members in relation to the social problems within Ayr Town Centre.

**Decided:** following review, that the decision of the Leadership Panel in respect of this matter be confirmed and implemented, whilst noting the wider social problems within Ayr Town Centre.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.