

COMMUNITY SERVICES STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 5th December 2011 at 3.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Councillors Douglas Campbell (Portfolio-Holder) Eddie Bulik, Mary Kilpatrick, John McDowall, Tom Slider and Winifred Sloan.

Attending: H. Garland, Executive Director – Children and Community; V. Andrews, Head of Legal and Administration; K. Leinster, Head Community Care and Housing; D. Burns, Manager (Housing Developing and Monitoring); C. Bradshaw, Assistant Public Communications Officer; and A. Gerrish, Committee Administrative Officer.

1. Exclusion of press and public.

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

2. Item for Call-in – Appointment of Design Team for Council House and Children’s Residential Unit Plan at Forehill, Ayr.

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Leadership Panel of 22nd November 2011 (Page 702, paragraph 22) when that Panel, having considered a joint report of 9th November 2011 by the Executive Director – Children and Community and Executive Director – Development and Environment, had decided

- (1) to agree to the appointment of the Design Team as outlined in section 4.1 to 4.3 of the report; and
- (2) to approve the revised cost, number of units and funding for the New Build Council Housing project as outlined in section 5.1 of the report.

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

- (a) following the appointment of the Design Team, could the cost to the Council be outlined if the project did not go ahead or the project brief was altered in any way;
- (b) give the reasons for increasing the number of houses planned from 15 to 19; and
- (c) could details be provided of any consultation which had taken place with Local Members regarding this project.

The Chair advised that the answers to the questions as detailed in the call-in requisition had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chair invited Councillor Bulik to explain his reasons for the call-in and, thereafter, the Panel heard him enquire in relation to (a) to (c) above and the Head of Community Care and Housing responded accordingly.

The Chair then invited the Portfolio-Holder to comment on the issues raised and Councillor Bulik to sum up.

Questions and concerns were raised by Members of the Panel in relation to the actual amount that it would cost if the project did not go ahead, the appointment of the design team before the consultation exercise had been completed and the dissemination of information to Local Members and the Executive Director – Children and Community and Head of Community Care and Housing responded accordingly.

Decided: following review, that the decision of the Leadership Panel in respect of this matter be confirmed and implemented.

Councillor Saxton left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

Decided: to note the Minutes of the meeting of 2nd November 2011 (issued).

The meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.