

**DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.**

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
on 9th October 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Kirsty Darwent (Chair), Andy Campbell, Ian Cochrane, Peter Convery, Ann Galbraith, Mary Kilpatrick, Brian McGinley and Alec Oattes.

Attending: M. Newall, Head of Planning and Enterprise; V. Andrews, Head of Legal and Administration; C. Monaghan, Head of Policy, Performance and Communication; C. Cox, Planning Manager; C. Bishop, Performance and Business Change Manager; A. MacLeod, Performance and Business Manager; S. MacDonald, Co-ordinator (Strategy and Support Service); P. Irving, Senior Enterprise and Tourism Officer; D. Bell, Managing Director, Ayr Renaissance; and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

**1. Items for Call-in.**

The Panel noted that there had been no call-ins for this meeting.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 11th September 2012 (issued) were submitted and noted.

**3. Development Management Service Review: Update.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of Leadership Panel of 14th February 2012 (Page 68, paragraph 4), there was submitted a report (issued) of 26th September 2012 by the Executive Director – Development and Environment providing an update against each of the key actions arising from the previous Development Management Service Review.

Following questions from Members, the Planning Manager provided further information and clarification in relation to the eight key actions that had arisen from the Review and how the development of the key actions could be tracked during the coming years.

**Decided:**

- (1) to note the implementation of the key actions from the Development Management Review; and
- (2) to request that the Planning Manager in consultation with the Chair, would consider a Seminar for all Members of the Council to update them on the planning system, including the National Planning Framework 3 together with providing an update of implementation of the key actions arising from the Review.

#### 4. **Annual Performance Report to 31st March 2012.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of South Ayrshire Council of 27th September 2012 (Page 446, paragraph 11), there was submitted a report (issued) of 27th September 2012 by the Head of Policy, Performance and Communication providing an update on the Council's progress against its Corporate Plan to 31st March 2012.

Following questions from Members of the Panel relating to the various Aims referred to in the Appendix to the report, clarification or a response was provided by Officers as follows in relation to:-

- (1) the context of jobs in South Ayrshire that had been safeguarded through Enterprise support, job losses in South Ayrshire and businesses affected and a taskforce that had been formed to look at job losses in South Ayrshire and a three phase business development programme which was being developed;
- (2) the progression of major planning developments in South Ayrshire including North East Troon;
- (3) the recently approved Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Strategy;
- (4) the beneficial effect golf tournaments have had on South Ayrshire as a whole and the need for emerging new attractions to be examined;
- (5) the condition of village signs and historic milestones;
- (6) transport links to and from Ayrshire harbours and that the Council was working with Troon Port and the Port of Ayr on this matter;
- (7) the decreased use of the Council's sports and leisure facilities, the opening hours of these facilities and the effect on the indicators of the changed way of reporting and the use of the cycle paths and condition of certain grass pitches;
- (8) free school meals provision including provision during school holidays and children's holiday clubs;
- (9) the draft Leisure Strategy and the timescale for it coming forward to Members;
- (10) the difficulty of obtaining accurate figures relating to the number of injuries in the home;
- (11) the importance of the Council engaging with communities by more "inventive" or effective means and how more work was being undertaken in this area;
- (12) the provision of cultural facilities to meet the needs of all communities;
- (13) the good work that was being undertaken by the library service with the introduction of e-books and audio e-books;
- (14) anti-dog fouling measures by this Council;
- (15) the use of variable street lighting across South Ayrshire; and

- (16) the cost to the Council of refuse collection including the future collection of food waste. The Panel also agreed to record their appreciation of those involved in the improved refuse collection service.

Officers undertook to provide briefing papers for the Members of the Panel and updates to future meetings of the Panel on the following:-

- (a) the Senior Enterprise and Tourism Officer would request that the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Manager provide an update to Members of this Panel on how the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Strategy would be taken forward and also that a copy of the Strategy would be forwarded to them;
- (b) the Performance and Business Manager would arrange for an update to be provided to Members of the Panel advising of the issue regarding the use of the diving board at the Citadel;
- (c) the Head of Planning and Enterprise would arrange for an update to Members of this Panel on the use of cycle paths and the condition of grass pitches in Crosshill and Coylton;
- (d) the Performance and Business Manager would arrange for an update to be provided to Members of the Panel detailing a breakdown of the various children's holiday clubs in South Ayrshire and the cost to parents, if any, of providing this service and whether free meals were provided thereat;
- (e) the Performance and Business Manager would arrange for an update to be provided to Members of the Panel in relation to progress being made with regard to both the Sports and Leisure and Arts and Cultural strategies;
- (f) the Performance and Business Manager would arrange for an update to this Panel in approximately six months time in respect of the performance indicators relating to visits to libraries and the number of e-books and audio books borrowed;
- (g) the Head of Planning and Enterprise would provide an update to this Panel in March 2013 on anti-dog fouling measures including the number of fines issued in this respect and that an update on the appointments process for Enforcement Officers would be reported to the next meeting of this Panel; and
- (h) the Head of Planning and Enterprise would provide an update to Members of this Panel in relation to the use of variable street lighting.

**Decided:**

- (i) to note the progress of elements relating to the remit of this Panel in the Annual Performance Report to 31st March 2012, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) to agree that, having noted the contents of this report, that any ideas and suggestions for Scrutiny Review be intimated by Members of the Panel to the Chair or the Executive Director – Development and Environment prior to the next meeting of this Panel, when at that time consideration would be given to possible Scrutiny Reviews by this Panel.

The meeting ended at 12.05 p.m.