

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 11th December 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Apology: Councillor Ian Cochrane.

Attending: L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Development and Environment;
A. MacLeod, Performance and Business Manager; 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 13th November 2012 (issued) were submitted and noted.

3. Programme of Reviews – Verbal Update.

With reference to the Minutes of 13th November 2012 (Page 542, paragraph 3), the Executive Director – Development and Environment advised

- (1) that this Council was currently in the midst of intensive work to identify savings over the next three years;
- (2) that the Chairs three Scrutiny Panels' had recently met with the Executive Officers' Group to discuss what Reviews could be carried out which would complement the budget reviews and be able to be physically supported by Officers;
- (3) that it was important that the Reviews were focussed on areas of concern which in turn would encourage smarter working and increase efficiency in the Council; and
- (4) that once all three Scrutiny Panels had decided which Scrutiny Reviews they would like to undertake, they would be discussed with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holders, prior to them being agreed at the Council meeting scheduled to take place on 14th February 2013.

Various Members raised concerns whether these proposals would inhibit Scrutiny Panels to decide themselves what Reviews they wish to undertake and the importance of Scrutiny Reviews to the Council.

The Executive Director – Development and Environment then intimated that the Panel might wish to review two of the following issues:-

- (a) energy use in Council premises;
- (b) what a library should look like in the future;
- (c) community involvement in grounds maintenance; and
- (d) effective sponsorship of cultural and leisure events.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the possible areas of Review, as detailed at (a) to (d) above.

Decided:

- (i) that the Panel wished to undertake Reviews relating to:-
 - (A) what a library should look like in the future; and
 - (B) community involvement in grounds maintenance; and
- (ii) that the Panel might consider the other two areas of work for Review, as detailed at (a) and (d) above, once those Reviews as detailed at (i) above had been completed.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.