

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 24th January 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors John McDowall (Chair), Stan Fisher, Ann Galbraith, John Hampton, Mary Kilpatrick and Mairi Low.

Apologies: Councillors Eddie Bulik and Mike Peddie.

Also Present: Councillor Peter Convery (Portfolio-holder).

Attending: L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Development and Environment; C. Cox, Planning Manager; and A. Gibson, Committee Administrative 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 29th November 2011 (issued) were submitted and noted.

3. Review of Development Management.

Reference was made to the Minutes of this Panel of 22nd March 2011 (Page 219, paragraph 3) when it had agreed the remit of the Review relating to the Development Management function of the Planning Service and there was submitted a report (issued) of 19th January 2012 by the Executive Director – Development and Environment

- (1) detailing the outcomes of the Review; and
- (2) advising that the Review had been structured around eight objectives, namely:-
 - how did the Service contribute to the Council Vision, the Community Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement objectives?;
 - what would the consequences of ceasing the Service be?;
 - was the Service operating effectively in terms of the core principles of Planning Reform?;
 - was the Service operating economically and efficiently?;
 - were equalities and sustainability issues being adequately addressed?;
 - what was the extent of improvement and innovation since the introduction of planning reforms on 3rd August 2009?;

- what was the extent of partnership working and scope for integration?; and
- was the Service fit for purpose in the current operating environment?

Following a detailed discussion and questions from Members of the Panel regarding the findings of the Review, the Executive Director – Development and Environment and the Planning Manager responded accordingly.

Decided:

- (a) to forward the findings of the Review to the next meeting of the Leadership Panel; and
- (b) that the implementation of the actions arising from the Review, be reported back to a future meeting of this Panel.

4. Review relating to the Disposal of Assets by the Estates Section of this Council.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 8, the Executive Director – Development and Environment advised the Panel that the Review which this Panel had agreed to undertake relating to the disposal of assets by the Estates Section of this Council was not in the remit of this Panel but was in fact under the remit of the Corporate and Community Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel.

Decided: to advise the appropriate Scrutiny Panel, following the Council Elections in May of this year, should they wish to review this matter.

The meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.