

## **DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.**

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
on 12th November 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Kirsty Darwent (Chair), Andy Campbell, Ian Cochrane, Peter Convery, Ann Galbraith, William J. Grant and Mary Kilpatrick.

Apology: Councillor Brian McGinley.

Attending: L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; J. Cronin, Head of Community, Enterprise and Development; C. Cox, Planning Manager; D. Lowdon, Development Officer, Parks and Open Spaces; and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

### **1. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

### **2. Items for Call-in.**

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

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 1st October 2013 (issued) ([link attached](#)) were submitted and approved.

### **4. Planning Performance Framework 2012-13.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 4th November 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment detailing this Council's planning performance for 2012/13, as assessed within the Planning Performance Framework.

Clarification was sought and provided regarding housing land supply and it was noted that it was currently common in other Scottish local authorities for much of the housing land supply not to be effective because of current market conditions.

Following discussion, the Panel noted the importance of the Council taking cognisance of the customer satisfaction survey undertaken, as detailed in Appendix II (Annex 2) of the report.

**Decided:-** to note the performance information as set out in Appendix II of the report, which would be submitted to Scottish Ministers for their consideration, in accordance with the Planning Performance Framework recommended by the Scottish Government and Heads of Planning Scotland.

**5. Scrutiny Review - Community Involvement in Grounds Maintenance.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of 1st October 2013 (Page 17, paragraph 10) and there was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 7th November 2013 by the Scrutiny Panel Sub-Group on Community Involvement in Grounds Maintenance setting out their recommendations.

Clarification was sought and provided relating to the details of the “In Bloom” type competition proposed.

**Decided:-** to agree to recommend to the Leadership Panel

- (1) that it should request Council Officers to report back to it with costed proposals for the development of an “In Bloom” type competition for villages and a “Best Kept Garden” initiative for urban areas;
- (2) that it should approve support and development of the Ayrshire Litter Volunteer Network initiative (ALVN) proposed by the organiser, Mr. David Pugh; and
- (3) that it should request Council Officers to report back to it with costed proposals for the development of a guide to encourage community participation, including contact details of relevant organisations to which interested volunteers could be signposted.

**6. Scrutiny Review – Library Service for the 21st Century.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of 1st October 2013 (Page 16, paragraph 9) and there was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 7th November 2013 by the Scrutiny Panel Sub-Group on Libraries setting out their recommendations.

A member of the Panel expressed concern relating to service co-location.

**Decided:-** to agree to recommend to the Leadership Panel

- (1) that it should consider future funding of the Library Service book fund in the context of overall budget proposals for 2014/15; and
- (2) that it should request Council Officers to consider the following points when they were reporting back on the relevant subject matter (ie welfare reform, co-location and ICT developments);
  - the role of the Library Service in the context of the Council’s overall response to the Welfare Reform Act;
  - co-location proposals involving libraries; and
  - the development of technology, for example, Wi-Fi access, within libraries, to expand options for future use where these offer cost-effective ways of achieving broader Council objectives.

The meeting ended at 10.30 a.m.