

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 26th February 2013 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: L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; J. Cronin, Head of Community, Enterprise and Development; C. Coombs, Sports, Leisure, Libraries, Art and Culture 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 11th December 2012 (issued) were submitted and noted.

4. Scoping Papers.

Reference was made to the Minutes of South Ayrshire Council of 14th February 2013 (Page 160, paragraph 14) when it was agreed that this Panel undertake Reviews in respect of the following areas:-

- community involvement in grounds maintenance; and
- the future shape and purpose of libraries in South Ayrshire,

there was submitted a report (issued) of 19th February 2013 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment providing scoping papers on both Reviews.

The Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment advised

- (1) that this Panel could ask for information on performance of services within their remit at any time; and
- (2) that a report regarding the Council's position in relation to the recommendations made in the Audit Scotland report, Protecting Consumers, published in January 2013 would be coming before this Panel for scrutiny (*Note following the meeting:- This Audit Scotland report will now be coming before the Corporate and Community Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel for scrutiny, in the first instance*).

Members of the Panel noted

- (a) that there would be two sub-groups formed, with four Members from this Panel undertaking the work associated with one Review and the other four Members undertaking the work associated with the other Review;
- (b) that all the Members of the Panel would be kept informed of both sub-group meetings, to allow them to attend both should they so wish; and
- (c) that M. Newall, Head of Neighbourhood Services and D. Lowdon, Development Officer, Parks and Open Spaces would be the link officers for the Review relating to community involvement in grounds maintenance and J. Cronin, Head of Community Enterprise and Development and C. Coombs, Sports, Leisure, Libraries, Art and Culture Manager would be the link officers for the Review relating to the future shape and purpose of libraries in South Ayrshire.

Arising from discussions, a series of issues were raised relating to the two Reviews, namely:-

- (i) community involvement in grounds maintenance -
 - (A) that with regard to community involvement, it was important that health and safety matters and insurance issues were included;
 - (B) that criminal justice involvement in grounds maintenance would be excluded from Review;
 - (C) the need to consider how to encourage well maintained gardens/communities including looking at practices of other councils;
 - (D) whether an "easy step guide" help communities get involved in grounds maintenance might be a recommendation coming out of the Review;
 - (E) the need to involve Community Councils; and
 - (F) whether a register to be compiled of all community groups involved in this type of work in South Ayrshire with contact details might be a recommendation coming out of the Review; and
- (ii) the future shape and purpose of libraries in South Ayrshire -
 - (A) the need to consider who currently visited libraries with a demographic breakdown;
 - (B) the need to ensure that staff had the opportunity to contribute their views on how the library service could be improved;
 - (C) the diversity of functions that could be delivered from the library service; and

- (D) the need whether information being held in the Archive Centre, Auchincruive could be more accessible ie. being available electronically in the libraries.

Decided: to agree

- (I) that two Sub-Groups be formed comprising Members from this Panel as follows:-
- Sub-Group relating to the Review on community involvement in grounds maintenance – Councillors Galbraith, Kilpatrick, McGinley and Oattes; and
 - Sub-Group relating to the Review on the future shape and purposes of libraries in South Ayrshire – Councillors A. Campbell, Cochrane, Convery and Darwent;
- (II) that amendments be made to the scoping papers taking into account the comments made at (i) and (ii) above; and
- (III) that emerging findings from the Sub-Groups be reported back to this Panel in June of this year.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.