

LEADERSHIP PANEL (SPECIAL).

Minutes of special meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 28th June 2011 at 9.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Bill McIntosh (Chair), Douglas Campbell, Peter Convery, Hywel Davies, Nan McFarlane, Robin Reid and Margaret Toner.

Attending: E. Howat, Executive Director – Corporate Services; L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Development and Environment; J. McQuillan, Head of Property and Neighbourhood Services; A. Greenwood, Estates Manager; C. Bradshaw, Assistant Public Communications Officer; and E. Wylie, Committee Administration Officer.

Also Attending: Councillors Brian Connolly, John McDowall and Helen Moonie.

1. Exclusion of press and public.

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Corporate and Community Planning – Resources and Performance.

2. Item for Call-in – Former School, St. Quivox, Ayr.

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Corporate and Community Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel of 23rd June 2011 (Page 2, paragraph 3) when that Panel, having considered the terms of a call-in from the Leadership Panel of 14th June 2011 (Page 389, paragraph 29) in relation to the former school at St. Quivox, Ayr, had decided following review, that this matter be referred back to the Leadership Panel with a recommendation

- (1) that the offer should not currently be accepted; and
- (2) that a request for further information from Officers be made with regards to the market value of the site taking account of the available detailed planning brief.

The Head of Property and Neighbourhood Services referred to the discussion which had taken place at the Standing Scrutiny Panel when issues had been raised in relation to other possible options for this site taking into account the detailed planning brief.

A full discussion then took place and a number of comments and questions were raised by Members of the Panel in relation to:- neighbouring developments and subsequent land value issues; whether this property was in a conservation area; whether a change in the way in which the property was marketed could alter the value; the detailed planning brief and the information made available to portfolio-holders in this regard and the Head of Property and Neighbourhood Services and the Estates Manager responded accordingly.

The Chair invited Councillor Brian Connolly, Chair of the Corporate and Community Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel to address the Panel and he provided an explanation as to why the Panel had reached its decision to refer this matter back to the Leadership Panel for its re-consideration particularly in terms of best value for the Council and the site potential.

Further discussion took place and Members of the Panel commented on the planning policy for rural areas and the current market.

Decided:

- (a) that the recommendation of the Corporate and Community Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel should not be accepted;
- (b) to confirm the decision taken at the meeting of the Leadership Panel on 14th June 2011 to declare the former St. Quivox School surplus to requirements and available for disposal to Edward O'Neil, failing which the next highest offer from Allavale Land Investments, on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Executive Director - Development and Environment; and
- (c) therefore, that the matter be referred to the Council on 30th June 2011 for ultimate determination.

The meeting ended at 9.20 a.m.