

Liaison Meeting between the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area
Committee and the Community Planning Partners
18 August 2005

IRVINE, 18 August 2005 - At a Liaison Meeting between the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners.

Present

Councillors Ian Clarkson, Tom Barr, Jane Gorman, Margaret McDougall, John Moffat, David O'Neill and Donald Reid (North Ayrshire Council); Marella O'Neill (North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership); Jim Reid (Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire); Sergeant Scott Irvine (Strathclyde Police); and Trixie Sheddou and Station Master Kenny Alcroft (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

In Attendance

J. Murray, Community Planning Co-ordinator, S. Bale, M. McKeown and A. Little, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Clarkson in the Chair.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Liaison Meeting held on 2 June 2005 were approved.

2. Irvine Bay Regeneration Project

The Liaison Meeting received a presentation by Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire on progress on the proposals for the development of the Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company.

The Council, in partnership with Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, have identified that an Urban Regeneration Company for the Irvine Bay area was necessary to make significant changes in the economic and social functioning of the Irvine Bay area. Following discussions with Ministers and the Scottish Executive, the Council gave an undertaking to produce a business case for the development of an Urban Regeneration Company.

Consultants commissioned to take forward the development of the business case have identified key issues which have contributed to the cycle of decline in Irvine Bay. Key opportunities which will assist a transformation approach to the regeneration of the area include the outstanding landscape and environmental assets, excellent transport infrastructure, large tracts of accessible, developable land, Ardrossan harbour, Kilwinning campus of James Watt College and the growing demand for outdoor activities such as sailing and golf.

The transformational approach will consider:-

- Major economic development, including strategic sites, focussing on Irvine as part of the Ayrshire core investment area. This will involve a rationalisation of the portfolio of sites and premises, with the release of surplus sites for housing, green space and urban forests.
- Ardeer and Irvine Harbour should be treated as the major regeneration priorities for the next decade, with consideration to the scale and content of commercial development and the implications for the wider area.
- Modern office space should be focussed on town centres wherever possible, on sites with good bus and rail connections.
- To stem urban sprawl and maintain a coherent landscape framework, housing should be accommodated within settlement boundaries wherever possible, or on surplus/redundant industrial land.
- Irvine is the principal retail centre in the urban area and should be the focus for future investment, the other towns should be strengthened in their roles as local shopping and community centres.

A draft report will be prepared for Council approval detailing mechanisms, funding and the experience of Urban Regeneration Companies. A business case will then be submitted to the Scottish Executive and work will begin on the creation of mechanisms, development of a detailed business plan and gathering of resources.

Noted.

3. Fullarton Health House

The Liaison Meeting agreed to receive a presentation by Fullarton Health House at the next meeting.

4. Regeneration Outcome Agreement 2005/06 - 2007/08

The Liaison Meeting agreed to consider the report by North Ayrshire Council on the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA), approved by the Scottish Executive in August 2005, at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 4.40 p.m.