

**MINUTES of MEETING of ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 2016**

Present: Councillor Ellen Morton (Chair)

Councillor John Armour	Councillor Aileen Morton
Councillor David Kinniburgh	Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Alistair MacDougall	Councillor Len Scoullar
Councillor Robert G MacIntyre	Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Donald MacMillan	Councillor Richard Trail
Councillor Bruce Marshall	Councillor Dick Walsh
Councillor Alex McNaughton	

Also Present: Councillor John MacAlpine Councillor Isobel Strong

Attending: Pippa Milne, Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services
Fergus Murray, Head of Economic Development and Strategic Transportation
Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenity Services
Angus Gilmour, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services
Ishabel Bremner, Economic Development Manager
Audrey Martin, Projects and Renewables Manager
Mark Steward, Marine and Coastal Development Manager
Moya Ingram, Strategic Transportation Manager
Patricia O'Neill, Central Governance Manager

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Anne Horn.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none intimated.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee held on 12 November 2015 were approved as a correct record.

Councillor Walsh and Councillor Scoullar joined the meeting at this point.

4. PRESENTATION BY FYNE FUTURES - ZERO WASTE BUTE

The Committee received an informative presentation from Reeni Kennedy-Boyle, General Manager of Fyne Futures.

Ms Kennedy-Boyle spoke about the vision for Zero Waste Bute, advising that they were working toward a target of zero waste, whilst creating jobs, and retaining value of waste. She showed the Committee a short video that had been made in 2014 to secure investment and advised that so far they had secured £317,000 to deliver their vision. Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Ms Kennedy-Boyle for her informative presentation.

Councillor MacDougall joined the meeting at this point.

5. PLANNING PERFORMANCE UPDATE

A report updating the Committee on planning performance matters, and which drew attention to recent feedback received from the Scottish Government in relation to performance, was considered.

Decision

The Committee –

1. Noted the content of the report and the positive feedback received from the Scottish Government.
2. Recorded their congratulations to the Planning Department, on behalf of the Council, on their significant performance, the robustness of their planning policies and processes, and their success.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 20 October 2015, submitted)

*** 6. A82/A83 TRANSPORT SCOTLAND UPDATE**

A report which provided updates on the preferred option for the upgrading of the A82 between Tarbet and Invararnan, and on the A83 Rest and Be Thankful, was considered.

Decision

The Committee -

1. Noted the content of the report.
2. Agreed to recommend to Council that consideration is given to making additional representation to the Scottish Government on the A83.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated December 2015, submitted)

7. COMPELLING ARGYLL AND BUTE AND ITS ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS STUDY - PROGRESS UPDATE

A report providing the Committee with an update on the progress of the proposed actions and activities to be delivered as a result of the evidence base and recommendations presented in the 'Compelling Argyll and Bute and its Administrative Areas' research study was considered.

Decision

The Committee noted the content of the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated January 2016, submitted)

8. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: REVIEW OF NOMENCLATURE OF UNITS FOR TERRITORIAL STATISTICS (NUTS) BOUNDARIES

The Committee considered a report providing them with details of the current review of Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics Boundaries which was currently out for consultation.

Decision

The Committee –

1. Agreed that the Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Policy Lead for Economic Development, submits a response to the Scottish Government consultation by the deadline of 15 January 2016.
2. Approved the draft response provided in the report.
3. Approved, outwith the consultation requirements, that consideration is given to the inclusion of the Helensburgh and Lomond part of Argyll and Bute into the current Highlands and Islands European funding area to create one single Argyll and Bute region going forward with regard to European funding issues post 2020 which would require further analysis by officers on the potential impact on funding from such a change. A separate paper would be brought to a future meeting.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated January 2016, submitted)

9. FUNDING FOR ONSHORE WIND

The Committee considered a report outlining changes proposed for renewables as well as an indication of the impacts within Argyll arising from the announcement by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change that the Government would cease to operate the Renewable Obligation for onshore wind from 1 April 2016.

Decision

The Committee –

1. Noted the content of the report.
2. Noted the consultation responses as detailed Appendices 3 – 5 of the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 23 December 2015, submitted)

10. FILM IN ARGYLL AND BUTE

A report which provided an overview of the work of the Council in attracting inward investment into Argyll and Bute from the screen industries and the economic opportunities that this brings to the area including the opportunities to promote and market the area as well as the increased opportunity that this provides from a tourism perspective.

Decision

The Committee noted the content of the report and the accompanying presentation both of which provided an update on the service that the Council offer to the screen industries, the resulting enquiries that they receive, productions that are being filmed in Argyll and Bute, the economic benefit that results and the benefits that this brings in attracting tourism to the area.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 9 December 2015, submitted)

11. INITIAL CONSULTATION ON REGULATING ORDER APPLICATION FOR THE FIRTH OF CLYDE

On 15 October 2015 Marine Scotland received an application from the Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust for a Regulating Order to manage the fisheries for Prawns, King Scallops and Queen Scallops in the Firth of Clyde.

The Committee considered a report providing details on the background, proposed scope, objectives and measures, and initial views on the proposal. The report sought approval of these views as the Council's first stage response to Marine Scotland.

Decision

The Committee –

1. Noted the content of the report.
2. Agreed to the comments provided in section 6 of the submitted report forming an initial Council response to Marine Scotland.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 14 January 2016, submitted)

12. UPDATE ON MANAGEMENT OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

The Committee considered an update report on the final decisions of the Scottish Government on management proposals for existing Marine Protected Areas and Special Areas of Conservation. This followed on from a report on the Management of Marine Protected Areas which had been considered by the Committee in November.

Decision

The Committee –

1. Noted the content of the report.
2. Agreed to the issues raised in paragraph 4.4 of the submitted report forming a short Council response to the new Loch Sunart to Sound of Jura Marine Conservation Order consultation.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 14 January 2016, submitted)

13. PROJECTS AND RENEWABLES - SOCIAL ENTERPRISE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

The Committee considered a report providing an overview of the achievements of the Social Enterprise Team over period April 2014 to March 2015.

Decision

The Committee noted the content of the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 14 January 2016, submitted)

14. ARGYLL AND THE ISLES AIR SERVICES

The Committee considered a report providing an update on air services, including details of the operating costs of airports and air services, timetables, fare structure, marketing of the services, and passenger figures using the services. It highlighted results of a recent public consultation with island communities on air services. The report also provided brief detail of other types of air services operating at Oban airport and training offered by staff to generate additional income.

Decision

The Committee noted the value provided from the operation of the air services and endorsed the continuing marketing strategy.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services dated 8 December 2015, submitted)

15. ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee considered the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Services Work Plan as at January 2016.

Decision

The Committee noted the Work Plan.

(Reference: Environment, Development and Infrastructure Services Work Plan as at January 2016, submitted)