The Impact of COVID-19 on Development Planning & Regeneration

We would like to reassure customers that we are doing everything we can to reduce the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on our ability to deliver our service. As our offices are closed staff are working remotely to maintain business continuity. All staff who are fit for work will continue to carry out as many of the regular duties as possible, subject to the restrictions set out by the government.

Local Development Plan 2: Main Issues Report

East Ayrshire Council are in the early stages of the preparation of Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) which will replace the current East Ayrshire Local Development Plan (EALDP) which was adopted in 2017. The first stage in this process is the development of the Main Issues Report (MIR).

This MIR document identifies key planning and policy changes affecting East Ayrshire, this includes development and land-use issues which must be addressed within LDP2. The MIR sets out preferred and alternative options for tackling these issues. The MIR also includes the identification of new development opportunity sites for future development. As such, the MIR sets out how we would like East Ayrshire to look in 20 years’ time.

The MIR outlines 29 issues which are considered to be vital topics to be addressed within LDP2.

Have your say - Comment on the MIR

A formal consultation will begin on the MIR from the 1st June 2020 to 31st July 2020. This is your opportunity to have your say on potential land-uses, identified sites and policies which will be used to direct and critique development in East Ayrshire in the future. You can view the LDP online at: https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/PlanningAndTheEnvironment/Development-plans/LDP2-LocalAndStatutoryDevelopmentPlans/East-Ayrshire-Local-Development-Plan-2017.aspx

Your comments should be as concise as possible. Any supporting information you wish to submit should be provided in an electronic format to: LocalDevelopmentPlans@east-ayrshire.gov.uk. You can also contact us for any general enquiries using this email address.

Representation forms can be found on the Council’s website at: https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/L/LDP2-Main-Issues-Report-Representation-Form.pdf

What happens next?

Following the end of the consultation period (31st July 2020), all of the representations/comments received will be reviewed and used to inform the Proposed Plan, which is anticipated to be published in Autumn 2021.

COVID-19 has had an impact on the Council’s ability to hold public engagement events. As such, the Council will hold these public engagement events at a later date. Further updates will be provided when the dates, locations and times of these events have been confirmed.

Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership

Thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the National Lottery players, the Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership (CCLP) has secured £2,220,500 for a 5 year delivery phase. When added to other funding that has and will continue to be secured, the total project budget will be in the region of £6 million. East Ayrshire Council have committed £937k to the CCLP. East Ayrshire Council is the lead Partner of the CCLP, other partners include:

The partnership will deliver 22 exciting community-led projects that aim to significantly improve the cultural, natural and industrial heritage of the area. The projects include peatland restoration, new footpaths, oral history project to capture memories of the lost mining villages, the reinstatement of hedgerow habitats and a musical celebration of life in the coalfields.

The objectives of CCLP are embedded within the Minerals Local Development Plan which focuses on regeneration and restoration, rather than just minerals extraction.

For further information please visit the CCLP website: www.coalfieldcommunities.co.uk. You can contact the Project Supervisor, Colin MacDonald at: colin.macdonald@east-ayrshire.gov.uk
Project Development

East Ayrshire Council has been progressing the development of three projects with the appointment of Fiona Paterson as Project Development Manager, Lorna Clark as Project Lead for NERD Project and Gillian Morton as Project Lead for the AMIC Project.

Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor (AMIC)

The AMIC Project includes the development of an Innovation Hub and Manufacturing Centre of Excellence focusing on Food and Drink, with the Dairy Industry being one of the key sectors for development. Combined with on-site support and start-up units, this project will allow the Food & Drink manufacturing businesses to start-up and grow as well as enabling the growth of existing businesses. AMIC has been allocated funding through both the UK and Scottish Governments which totals a £23.5M investment. Project next steps:

- Invite key members of the food and drink industry throughout Ayrshire along with Academic Institutions and advanced manufacturing representatives to discuss and finalise the key ambition for the centre.
- Consult on which “sub-sectors” of the industry would benefit most from the centres test kitchen and pilot plant facilities
- Engage and consult with a wider sample of Ayrshire Food and Drink businesses from Micro to SME’s to gain a better understanding of the sector needs.
- Update/resubmission of the outline business case at the end of July/August 2020, which will include the results of the research conducted.

National Energy Research Demonstrator (NERD)

This project has been gathering a lot of attention from the local community and energy sector alike with huge opportunities for Ayrshire to be an exemplar for a community centred transition to a low carbon society.

The project team have been busy developing a range of early Demonstrator projects which will run concurrently with the construction of the Centre of Excellence (which is due to begin in 2023). These include:

- **EV Charging project** - Working with Ayrshire Roads Alliance to establish an electric vehicle (EV) charging hub;
- **Mauchline CARS** - Develop a project which would help transition a historical building to low carbon;
- **Climate Positive project** - Developing a project to support small and medium sized enterprises in the transition to low carbon with Energy Technology Partnership;
- **Off-gas grid** - In partnership with a large energy company, this project would look to install heat pumps and thermal stores in some of our off-gas grid communities

Colleagues in the Council’s Facilities and Property Management team have been supporting the project team in developing the design and concept of the Centre of Excellence and over the next few weeks, design consultants will be appointed to the project.

The project team are working closely with the NERD Steering Group to develop an operational model for the Centre which will include details such as who will use the building, partnership working with organisations and academic institutions and how the Centre will be funded going forward.

Ayrshire Engineering Park

The Ayrshire Engineering Park is an investment of £16M to provide a range of fit for purpose modern industrial units in a range of sizes to support Ayrshire’s strong engineering sector, whose growth is constrained by a lack of modern industrial stock. Feedback from the recently submitted OBC is extremely positive and development of the project is progressing well with negotiations underway to purchase the preferred site.

For any information on these projects please contact Fiona Paterson at fiona.paterson2@east-ayrshire.gov.uk
Regeneration Heritage Projects

Our team are currently involved in a number of significant projects, Placemaking Plans with various communities, grant assistance to a number of Scottish Government funded Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) projects and we are assisting in projects funded by the Scottish Government’s Town Centre Regeneration Fund with a range of partners such as community organisations, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and SUSTRANS.

For further information on any of these projects please contact Colin McKee by email: colin.mckee@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Mauchline Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme

Mauchline Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) is a 5 year programme, jointly funded by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) & East Ayrshire Council (EAC), it is informed by Conservation Accredited Architects, run by EAC, steered and assisted by the community through the Mauchline Community Action Group. Its aim is to regenerate Mauchline by increasing and sustaining the economic activity and community development within the conservation area, maximising the economic potential of Mauchline’s significant association with Robert Burns.

The Mauchline CARS contract will run from April 2020 to March 2025.

Occupation of the new Mauchline CARS Office at 15 Earl Grey Street has been postponed due to COVID-19 virus restrictions. The Mauchline CARS Office will be opened once we are able to do so. In the meantime, the Team are continuing to work from home.

We hope to appoint a project Conservation Accredited Architect by the end of June 2020 to assist applicants with their project development.

Placemaking in East Ayrshire

There are a number of Placemaking Plans in progress. Current consultations can be viewed online at EAC’s website—https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/PlanningAndTheEnvironment/Planning-applications/Planning-guidance/Supplementaryplanningguidance.aspx

The three placemaking plans (below) are now awaiting approval by the Council. They then require Scottish Government approval to be adopted as Statutory Planning Guidance.

- New Cumnock Placemaking
- Dalrymple, Skeldon and Hollybush Placemaking
- North West Kilmarnock Placemaking
There are a number of Placemaking Plans which are in early development:

- **Auchinleck** - Informal Consultation with Community Stage, required to run an online survey on EAC Website / Social Media;
- **Mauchline** - Informal Consultation with Community Stage, required to run an online survey on EAC Website / Social Media;
- **Darvel** – next stage is a walkabout to take photos, followed by a Talking Pictures Event;
- **Hurlford & Crookedholm** – Draft Map & Draft Action Programme Stage;
- **Kilmarnocks** – Internal Research & Compilation Stage

## Regeneration Capital Grant Fund

Centrestage’s Kilmarnock Academy Legacy Project was progressing well on site with a targeted August opening prior to the COVID 19 lockdown. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic several funding organisations have asked Centrestage to withdraw funding applications. They are currently considering a further funding application to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for phase 2 of the project. Stage 1 RCGF applications will require to be submitted by the Council by 2pm on 19th June 2020.

Crossroads Community Hub (CCH) Ayrshire Food Hub was also on site nearing completion prior to the COVID 19 lockdown. Over the last 6 weeks 3,651 soups and simple meals had been cooked in the Hub and distributed to those in need throughout the Irvine Valley Towns, Bellfield, Riccarton and Shortlees. The meals are distributed by working in partnership with community councils COVID Support Groups, Vibrant Communities, Age Concern and Church groups.

The ingredients for the meals have been funded by the following:

- Meat donations were provided by **Darvel Dexter Beef** and **Ayrshire Retreats Sausages**, with Monetary donations provided by individuals and groups.

CCH have met with their business advisor, and have held a virtual board meeting to discuss revising their business model to take into account the impacts of the COVID-19 lockdown.

**Above Adventure’s West of Scotland Climbing Centre**, secured approximately £1.5M from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund towards a £2.2M+ redevelopment project to convert the former Grange Church in Kilmarnock into a climbing and bouldering centre. A formal contract has not been signed as there is a need to agree their approach to mitigating project risk in light of COVID-19.

## Town Centre Regeneration Fund

In 2019, the Scottish Government provided Town Centre Regeneration Funding to all Local Authorities, the Council received £1.7M for capital projects to help regenerate town centres. Initially these funds were to be utilised prior to 31 March 2020. However, at the request of various Local Authorities the deadline was extended to 31 March 2021. We are helping to coordinate the following TCRF funded community projects:-

**Doon Valley Projects** (budget £100,000) include the installation of additional CCTV in both Patna and Dalrymple; the installation of a covered meeting place in the community garden in Dalrymple; and additional lighting at the playing field and entrance sign in Drongan. With the exception of the lighting at the entrance to Drongan, which is now complete, the works have been delayed due to COVID 19.

**Browns Road Car Park, Newmilns** (Budget £200,000) The project involves the acquisition and development of a small car park at the junction of Browns Road & Browns Street, Newmilns by the Ayrshire Roads Alliance. The site acquisition still remains to be concluded.

**Hurlford Street Design** (Budget £15,000) Proposals have been developed as part of the Hurlford Street Design Project – a partnership between Sustrans Scotland and East Ayrshire Council. “Explore the designs” events were planned for this month but have had to be called off as a result of the coronavirus outbreak

However, residents in Hurlford can still have their say. As part of the design process a temporary Parklett is to be installed, a permanent Notice Board is also proposed within the main shopping area.