

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 Plans

Local authorities are required to prepare a Development Plan Scheme annually. This Scheme sets out our timetable for preparing and reviewing both our adopted Local Development Plan (2017) and Minerals Local Development Plan (2020) as well as associated supporting statutory and non-statutory supplementary guidance, outlining how this will be achieved.

The Development Plan Scheme also sets out the timetable for LDP2, National Planning Framework 4 as well as a detailed work programme for topics which will be presented to the Member Officer Working Group (MOWG).

This document can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/L/LDP-Development-Plan-Scheme-2021.pdf>

Local Landscape Area

As part of the preparation of LDP2, LDA Design have been commissioned to review our current Local Landscape Area, to see if it is fit for purpose or if it should be amended. An important part of this work is to understand how local people view and use the

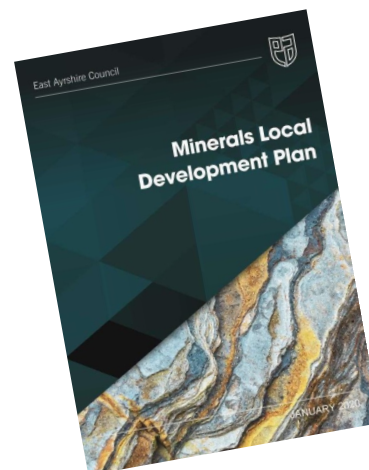


landscape. An online survey gathered public opinion on whether or not the LLA should remain as it is, be expanded, reduced or otherwise amended. This survey closed on the 26th March 2021. We were really

pleased to receive a total of 69 responses. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to contribute.

Minerals Local Development Plan (2020)

The East Ayrshire Minerals Local Development Plan has been named as a finalist in the category for Excellence in Plan Making Practice at the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence 2021. The Minerals Local Development Plan has a focus on restoration which was key to securing a £2.2 million regeneration lottery grant prior to its adoption.



The RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence are the most established and respected awards in the UK planning industry. Running for over 40 years, they celebrate exceptional examples of planning and the contribution planners make to society. Winners will be announced on 29th April 2021.

National Planning Framework 4

The Scottish Government is continuing to work on the National Planning Framework 4, which when approved will form part of the Development Plan for East Ayrshire. We are working hard to make sure that things that are important in East Ayrshire are fully considered by Scottish Government. Following Cabinet approval, we responded to the recent NPF4 Position Statement in February and are looking forward to seeing the draft Framework when it is published in later in year.



Ayrshire Growth Deal



A new website promoting the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) and the range of ambitious projects for the region has been launched recently. The website can be viewed at <https://www.ayrshiregrowthdeal.co.uk>

Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor

The AMIC project team have been busy engaging with food and drink businesses across Ayrshire along with the agricultural sector. This engagement has been carried out through online workshops due to current COVID restrictions. SAC Consulting carried out two workshop sessions in November & January. The first in November included larger F&D manufacturers from Ayrshire, Glasgow and Lanarkshire along with academic institutions, food and drink representative organisations and support agencies. The second session included smaller food and drink businesses and start up's. Through both sessions the project team received positive feedback on the proposed vision for the AMIC centre with many interesting views shared and positive pillars for development. SAC consulting have produced a full report which will be included in the next iteration of the OBC. During both sessions participants were asked to comment on the vision for the centre and what it meant to them:-



Engagement with the agricultural sector was kindly facilitated through collaboration with the Ayrshire branch of the NFU. The AMIC project team presented to the Ayrshire NFU board members in February with a focus on diversification and primary production.

The project OBC will be updated over the coming

months to include the research completed to date. Another key priority is providing a phase 1 plan for the centre, this will include an online support framework for Ayrshire F&D Businesses to collaborate with each other and share ideas and learnings. The proposal for phase 1 also includes working with partner organisations providing signposting and consultancy support to businesses in need of assistance.

National Energy Research Demonstrator

The NERD team have begun working on RIBA Stage 3 with the design consultants, Archetype along with colleagues in Facilities and Property Management. RIBA Stage 3 will involve a series of workshops between Council and the design to develop the internal and external spaces of the Centre of Excellence. Part of this work will involve engaging with the local community and online events will be organised in the coming months.



The NERD project team presented the NERD project to the Council's Corporate Management Team in February and the project team are looking forward to working with other Council departments to help deliver and facilitate some of the Demonstrator projects. The project team will be in contact with Heads of Departments to invite them to an initial meeting.

An update Outline Business Case will be submitted to UK and Scottish Governments in April and thereafter, the project team hope that the Outline Business Case will be approved.

Information about it is here: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/article/growth-deal-website-launched-as-ambitious-plans-for-ayrshire-gather-pace>



Regeneration Capital Grant Fund

West of Scotland Climbing Centre — This community led regeneration project will see the former Grange Church converted into a bouldering and climbing centre, as a regional facility for the West of Scotland. The contract started on the 11th January 2021, and is due for completion in March 2022, with the first phase the bouldering centre open later this year.

Site set-up has been delayed due to the COVID requirement for larger welfare units to assist social distancing and the scarcity of these units. However, the first stages of the work have commenced from more limited facilities, and these involved asbestos removal and doughtakings and a soft strip of the interior of the building.

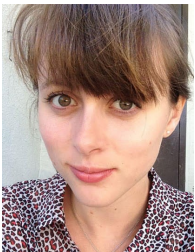
Scaffolding has started to be erected around the building and Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) have permitted a road closure to assist the establishment of a construction compound on Grange Street.

Currently, Above Adventure are awaiting confirmation of the level of funding from Historic Environment Scotland and have now submitted their first claim for Regeneration Capital Grant Funding to East Ayrshire Council.



Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership

Good news! We welcome 2 new project officers, Cynthia Bahi and Carolann McPhillimy (below) to the team. The CCLP team is now complete and we are looking forward to assisting our delivery partners to progress their various projects.



Project focus: Life in the Lost Villages – This is an oral history project led by the Scottish Oral History Centre at the University of Strathclyde. The project aims to capture

the history of life in the Miners' Row Villages of East Ayrshire – especially Lethanhill, Burnfoothill and Benquhat/Benwhat in the Doon Valley, Commodityke and Darnconner in the Lugar Valley, and Glenbuck. A Research Associate has been appointed and will start on 1st March 2020 and a website for the project is under development.

The project is part funded by Historic Environment Scotland through their Organisational Support Fund.



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

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Do follow the CCLP on Facebook @EACCLP as well as our [website](#).

East Ayrshire Woodlands

East Ayrshire Woodlands is delighted to welcome our first Trees and Timber Modern Apprentices. Callum Wilson, Craig Wallace and Callan Brown will take up their posts before the end of March.

This Modern Apprenticeship programme will provide practical, on the job training to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to secure employment in the land-based industries. Working in partnership with Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) we will be able to offer a comprehensive and stimulating range of learning opportunities and essential vocational qualifications. This will be consolidated through mentoring and access to experienced contractors and practitioners. This is an exciting time to be taking the first steps towards a career in forestry.



Apprentices will be directly involved in projects to manage and enhance accessible woodland and other habitats, restore and improve core and local path

networks, and generally support a diverse range of community led environmental regeneration activities.

Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership, a total of fifteen Landscape Apprentice places will be created over the next 5 years.