

# Case Study: Achieving results through joint working with elected members and officers across the Council

## Attribute 4: The Planning Authority has Sound Governance

---

### Context

Various meetings and workshops held via online platforms and in person throughout 2023/24.

---

### What happened

The Member Officer Working Group (LDP2 MOWG) was established in the Cabinet meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The MOWG met for the first time on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 and since its inception, LDP2 has been adopted and supplementary guidance approved.

The establishment of the MOWG was as a result of the success of the Minerals Local Development Plan Member Officer Working Group in which Members' and officers input had been invaluable in progressing the Plan to Examination. It was also a way of improving engagement and collaborative working with all Elected Members, Council services and arm's length organisations. It was ensured that there would be a balanced geographical and political spread, in terms of Elected Members sitting on the MOWG.

The group approved the LDP (post Examination) on 1 February 2024 prior to its further approval by Council and submission to Scottish Ministers for adoption. Since this meeting, we have met a further time to discuss emerging supplementary guidance yet to be finalised and the next Local Development Plan (LDP3).

Prior to these key decisions, various meetings of the MOWG have taken place to make decisions on key milestones in the LDP preparation process, discuss background evidence supporting the Plan's spatial strategy, policies and proposals. Each MOWG meeting focused on breaking down sections of the LDP by topic areas e.g. energy, housing, environment and industry and business. Each meeting included an assessment of environmental impacts for strategic environmental impact purposes. All meetings have taken place in person or online and led by managers and officers in planning policy.

---

### Areas of collaboration

Lead Officer – Strategic Manager Development Planning. LDP2 MOWG comprises of Elected Members representing a wide geographical area and balanced political spread, and Officers from key Council Services including Planning and Economic Development; Waste; Sustainable Development; Education; Facilities and Property Management; Housing and Vibrant Communities as well as arm's length organisations, including the Ayrshire Roads Alliance and East Ayrshire Leisure Trust. As each meeting

focuses on specific topics areas, this makes officers time inputting to the MOWG and preparation of the LDP much more efficient.

---

## What was the overall result

The Local Development Plan for East Ayrshire was adopted on 8 April 2024. The MOWG meetings in the NPIF year leading up to this point and in previous years have allowed major parts of the Plan, and the Plan post Examination to be viewed, amended and approved on a preliminary basis, which has ensured a much more efficient journey to Council in early 2024.

---

## Lessons learned

New and improved relationships have formed between departments allowing for more positive collaborative working. This has extended to how the Council liaise and work with stakeholders. Elected Members also have an improved sense of how the Plan comes together, in terms of its relationship with NPF4 and its spatial strategy and policies. The requirement to lodge papers for MOWG and meet the meeting timetable has resulted in improved project management and improved adherence to the development plan scheme.

---

## What contribution did it make towards delivering outcomes?

### NPF4

- ☒ Sustainable places
- ☒ Climate change and nature crisis
- ☒ Climate mitigate and adaptation
- ☒ Biodiversity
- ☒ Natural Places
- ☒ Soils
- ☒ Forestry, woodland and trees
- ☒ Historic assets and places
- ☐ Green belts
- ☒ Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings
- ☐ Coast development
- ☒ Energy
- ☒ Zero waste
- ☒ Sustainable transport
- ☒ Liveable places
- ☒ Design, quality and place
- ☒ Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

- ☒ Quality homes
- ☒ Rural homes
- ☒ Infrastructure first
- ☒ Heat and cooling
- ☒ Blue and green infrastructure
- ☒ Play, recreation and sport
- ☒ Flood risk and water management
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☒ Digital Infrastructure

#### ☒ Productive places

- ☒ Community Wealth Building
- ☒ Business and industry
- ☒ City, town, local and commercial centres
- ☒ Retail
- ☒ Rural development
- ☒ Tourism
- ☐ Culture and creativity
- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☒ Minerals

### Place and Wellbeing Outcomes

- ☒ Movement
- ☒ Spaces
- ☒ Resources
- ☒ Civic
- ☒ Stewardship