

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 7 December 2010 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors BOB MYLES, IAN MACKINTOSH, ALISON ANDREWS, SANDY WEST, ALEX KING, DAVID MAY, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, JIM MILLAR, DONALD MORRISON, PETER MURPHY, ROB MURRAY, MAIRI EVANS, MARK SALMOND, SHEENA WELSH and JOHN WHYTE.

Councillor MYLES, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillors Iain Gaul and Helen Oswald, with Councillors Sandy West and Mairi Evans substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations intimated.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 October 2010](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Scrutiny and Audit Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Sub-Committee of 2 November 2010](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Angus Community Planning Partnership

The [minute of meeting of the Angus Community Planning Partnership of 22 September 2010](#) was submitted and noted.

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT MID TERM SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 December 2009, there was submitted [Report No 890/10](#) by the Chief Executive presenting the mid term service performance report for the Chief Executive's Department covering the first six months of the 2010/11 financial year.

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the Chief Executive's Department's mid term service performance report for 2010/11.

5. MID-TERM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 December 2009, there was submitted [Report No 891/10](#) by the Chief Executive presenting the mid term Corporate Performance Report covering the first six months of the 2010/11 financial year and which also complemented the mid term service performance reports which departments submitted to their service committees in the November/December Committee cycle.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the terms of the mid term Corporate Performance Report for 2010/11.

6. FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO ANGUS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 December 2009, there was submitted [Report No 892/10](#) by the Chief Executive informing members of the total financial support provided to Angus Community Councils for the period 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010.

The Report indicated that each operational Community Council received a grant to cover their administration costs which amounted to £14,670 in total, with the exact amount of grant to each community council being determined by population figures. In addition, to improve effective communication, an allowance was available to assist those that wished to communicate electronically. The overall total expenditure for the period 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 amounted to £32,016.70.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

7. JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 11 November 2010, there was submitted [Joint Report No 805/10](#) by the Chief Executive, the Director of Social Work and Health, the Director of Education and the Director of Neighbourhood Services advising the Committee of the forthcoming Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children in the Angus area.

The Report indicated that services in Angus were due to be inspected in January 2011 as part of the second round of HMle joint inspections of child protection services. The process of the inspection was detailed in the Report and inspectors would evaluate the impact of services on children and families by addressing a number of key questions.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the relevant Directors to report to the respective committees at a future date on the outcome of the full inspection.

8. FIRST PERIODIC REVIEW OF SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT BOUNDARIES

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 June 2009, there was submitted [Report No 893/10](#) by the Chief Executive advising members of the completion of the Boundary Commission for Scotland's First Periodic Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries following approval by the Secretary of State for Scotland and of proposed amendments to the Council's polling scheme in light of this review and the closure or unavailability of a number of existing polling places.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies and Regions) Order 2010 had come into force on 11 November 2010 implementing the Boundary Commission for Scotland's recommendations. This Order would designate the new Scottish Parliament Regions for the Scottish Parliament Election for Angus South and Angus North & Mearns constituencies forming part of the North East Scotland Region.

As the new constituency boundaries were coterminous with Angus local government ward boundaries a full scale review of the polling districts had not been required. However, due to the closure, unavailability or suitability of a number of existing polling places, the Returning Officer had reviewed the polling arrangements in the relevant areas.

In addition, the Report detailed the polling arrangements for the part of Angus North & Mearns constituency which fell into the Aberdeenshire local government area.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the designation of two new constituencies spanning the Angus local government area; Angus North & Mearns and Angus South as per the maps contained in Appendix 1 to the Report;

- (ii) to note that the 2011 Scottish Parliament elections would be held on these constituency boundaries;
- (iii) to approve the amendments to the current parliamentary polling districts and polling places as outlined in Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (iv) to note that the Electoral Registration Officer would arrange to make the necessary amendments to the 2010/11 Electoral Register; and
- (v) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, as Parliamentary Returning Officer, in consultation with appropriate local members, to make minor changes to the polling scheme in the run up to any statutory election in order to ensure the smooth conduct of the poll.

9. SURVIVE AND THRIVE – FURTHER HOUSING CONTRIBUTION

There was submitted [Joint Report No 894/10](#) by the Chief Executive and the Director of Neighbourhood Services setting out a further contribution to the Survive and Thrive Agenda and to the provision of additional affordable housing in Angus.

The Report indicated that the Housing Division had undertaken a review of its staffing provision and structure which had generated savings of over £230,000 with £218,000 usable for the purposes of additional windfall prudential borrowing. This would service additional borrowing of up to £3.2 million which was proposed be utilised for the purposes of securing additional new build affordable housing, that would not only have the benefit of providing housing but would also support local training and employment initiatives.

Having heard a number of members welcome the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note that the Chief Executive and the Director of Neighbourhood Services had begun initial discussions with the Builders Federation under the banner of Survive and Thrive and that these discussions were positive with developers now preparing proposals to unlock sites for development across Angus with these proposals being benchmarked against the framework in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (iii) that the Director of Neighbourhood Services expresses an interest in all viable development land held by Angus Council with a view to land banking these sites and thereafter using these sites for affordable housing purposes and that the Director also seek to enter into discussions with Community Planning Partners on the same basis.

10. SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME

There was submitted [Report No 896/10](#) by the Chief Executive presenting a Single Equality Scheme for adoption by Angus Council.

The Report indicated that the Council currently had three separate equality schemes, one in respect of disability, one for gender and one for race. The Equality Act 2010 which would be phased in over the next three years consolidated previous separate equalities legislation into one and that whilst the Act did not specifically require public bodies to adopt a single equality scheme it was considered that as the individual components of the Act were introduced more public bodies would move to a single scheme.

The Committee agreed to adopt the Single Equality Scheme, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

11. ESTABLISHMENT CHANGES

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 October 2010, there was submitted and noted [Report No 897/10](#) by the Chief Executive summarising changes to establishments within the Corporate Services, Infrastructure Services, Neighbourhood Services and Social Work and Health Departments for the period 5 September to 22 October 2010.