

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE** held in The Town and County Hall, Forfar on Wednesday 22 November 1995 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors STEWART MOWATT, RICHARD SPEIRS, HELEN ANGUS, IAN ANGUS, Mrs GLENNIS MIDDLETON, IAN HUDGHTON, WILLIAM CROWE, GEORGE P ALLAN, THOMAS I N YOUNG and ROB MURRAY.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Mrs KATHLEEN RITCHIE.

Councillor MOWATT, Convener, in the Chair.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of meetings of this Committee of 27 September and 8 November 1995 were accepted as correct records and signed by the Convener.

2. LANDFILL TAX

There was submitted Report No AC153/95 by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection indicating that the Government had recently completed a consultation process on the proposed introduction of a landfill tax and that the majority of replies had favoured a tax based on weight rather than the proposals set out in the consultation paper for a tax levied as a percentage of the cost of disposal (ad valorem). The Chancellor of the Exchequer had recently announced that the landfill tax would now be weight based per tonne of waste and that inert waste would be subject to a reduced rate of tax.

Local authorities, which had provided 46% of the response, had expressed concern regarding the cost of the tax and its effect on their budgets. The Government had indicated that it would address the issue of the financial impact on local authorities in the context of the local government finance settlement.

The Committee noted the terms of the Report and the need for budgetary provision to meet the cost of the tax in 1996/97.

3. METROLOGY - STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION

Mr George Begg, Principal Officer, Trading Standards, Tayside Regional Council, gave a short presentation on the history of the standardisation of weights and measures and the role of Trading Standards Officers in ensuring that these standards were adhered to by traders.

4. COUNTERFEITING - THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

Mr James Matthew, the Head of Consumer Protection, gave a short presentation, with examples on the increasing problem of counterfeit branded goods on sale to the public, on the economic and employment implications and on the measures being taken by Trading Standards Officers to combat this crime.

5. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (Paragraph 6).

6. WASTE DISPOSAL CHARGES

There was submitted Report No AC154/95 by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection indicating that the landfill charges at Lochhead Landfill Site had, in recent years, been raised only by the rate of inflation annually at 1 April, but that recently there had been a marked rise in charges levied by the waste disposal industry at facilities licensed to accept non-inert waste. In addition, there was now a need to conserve the remaining void space available at Lochhead Landfill Site and a substantial increase in charges to match the industry rate would maximise the benefit of the resource.

The Committee approved the terms of the Report and agreed:-

- (1) that waste disposal charges at Lochhead Landfill Site be increased to £13.00 per tonne plus landfill tax (when applicable), plus VAT from 1 April 1996; and
- (2) to instruct the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection to inform the current landfill customers of the impending increase, giving at least 3 months notice of the change.