

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE** held in The Town and County Hall, Forfar on Wednesday 31 January 1996 at 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors STEWART MOWATT, Mrs KATHLEEN RITCHIE, GEORGE ALLAN, HELEN ANGUS, WILLIAM CROWE, FRANK ELLIS, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, RICHARD SPEIRS and THOMAS I N YOUNG.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors IAN ANGUS, IAN HUDGHTON, Mrs RENATE LAMONT, and ROB MURRAY.

Councillor MOWATT, Convener, in the Chair.

## 1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 November 1995 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

## 2. CONSUMER ADVICE SERVICE - PROVISION

There was submitted Report No AC46/96 by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection on the Consumer Advice Service.

Although not a statutory function, it was felt that Angus Trading Standards, as part of the Environmental and Consumer Protection Department, should provide advice to members of the public on consumer matters and, in this regard, the Report sought to continue the practice of Tayside Regional Council by having a Consumer Advice Centre to provide the best possible advice within the constraints of the current staff and premises availability. The advice function would be complementary to the general enforcement or compliance work of the department, and appropriate aspects of consumer complaints could be identified, investigated and dealt with by an Enforcement Officer.

The Committee approved the policy framework set out in Report AC46/96.

## 3. PROVISION OF CONSUMER EDUCATION

There was submitted Report No AC45/96 by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection setting out the policy framework for the provision of consumer education as an integral part of the services provided by this Department.

After noting the important role that schools played in the process of educating the young consumer, the Committee approved the policy framework set out in Report AC45/96.

## 4. FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY

There was submitted Report No AC51/96 by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection recommending that the food law enforcement policy already adopted by Angus District Council, which provided for a consistent approach to food safety and hygiene inspection and enforcement, be adopted by Angus Council.

The Committee agreed to the adoption of the policy appended to Report No AC51/96.

## 5. HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT - WORKING WITH BUSINESS

There was submitted Report No AC52/96 by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection detailing the requirement on Angus Council, as an enforcement agency, under the Health and Safety at Work Act, from 1 April 1996, to produce a code detailing the standards of service which could be expected from the authority and its officers.

The Report outlined the principles which the code would follow and a copy of the proposed code was appended to the Report. The financing of the printing and distribution of the code would be met from the Departmental Budget.

The Committee agreed to the adoption of the code appended to Report AC52/96 and to make copies available to relevant businesses and premises inspected.

**6. SHARED USE OF LOCAL REFERENCE AND CALIBRATION STANDARDS**

There was submitted Report No AC53/96 by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection indicating that the local reference and calibration standards currently used by the Trading Standards Officers of Tayside Regional Council were held in a "pooled" property in controlled conditions in Dundee, and giving consideration to the usage of these standards on a shared basis with the three new Councils all contributing to the cost of upkeep.

The Committee agreed to pursue a joint arrangement for the provision of these standards and to meet the share of the costs of upkeep apportioned to Angus as set out in Report AC53/96.