

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 9 June 2005 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DAVID SELFRIDGE, KITTY RITCHIE, FRANK ELLIS, JACK GIBB, ALEX KING, IAN MACKINTOSH, STEWART McGLYNN, JOY MOWATT, ROBERT MYLES, PETER NIELD, MARK SALMOND, RON SCRIMGEOUR, RICHARD SPEIRS and ROBERT SPINK.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor IAN ANGUS.

Councillor SELFRIDGE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Gibb and Mowatt declared an interest in items 34 and 37 as Directors of Angus Digital Media Centre Ltd.

Councillor Spink declared an interest in item 31 as a member of the Esk District Salmon Fisheries Board.

2. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Kirriemuir Drainage Sub/Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Kirriemuir Drainage Sub-Committee of 25 April 2005](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 13 May 2005](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX II**).

3. SERVICE PLAN UPDATES

There was submitted [Report No 648/05](#) by the Chief Executive providing the contextual background for submission of all departmental Service Plan updates and asking the Committees of the Council to approve the Plans which related to their functions.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

(i) to approve the Service Plan updates in respect of:-

- [Planning and Transport Department](#)
- [Roads Department](#)
- [Chief Executive's Department \(Economic Development\)](#); and

(ii) to note that, in accordance with the Council's Best Value Improvement Plan, changes would be introduced at the end of this calendar year to integrate the budget and service planning cycles.

4. ACCESSIBLE RURAL AREAS

The Committee noted that the Scottish Parliament's Environment and Rural Development Committee would hold a meeting in Brechin City Hall on Monday 13 June 2005 at 2.00 pm as part of its inquiry into rural development with a focus on "accessible" rural areas. The Committee would hear from invited witnesses in a formal evidence session, and there would be an opportunity for members of the public to contribute during an open informal session.

The meeting was part of the Committee's enquiry into rural development and would focus on a number of points, including:-

- to examine what were the aims of the accessible rural communities for development of their area, and the challenges they faced in achieving those aims
- to assess how these issues were reflected in government policy and funding initiatives (by the Scottish Executive and across other levels of government and public agencies), including how such initiatives were targeted
- to identify the policy priorities which should be pursued in order to help secure economic prosperity in accessible rural areas.

The Chief Executive would give evidence, on behalf of the Council, and a copy of the written submission to the Parliamentary Committee would be placed in the Members' Lounge.

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 692/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating members of a recent review of local bus service provision on the Dundee-Murroes-Glamis-(Kirriemuir) corridor and also informing of progress in respect of the implementation of the National free Travel Concession Scheme for elderly and disabled people from April 2006 and of the National Concessionary Travel Scheme for Young Persons.

The Report indicated that local bus service contracts were rigorously surveyed and consulted upon to ensure that replacement facilities provided would meet the transport requirements of users in the area, as had been the case on the Dundee-Murroes-Glamis-(Kirriemuir) corridor and that the Council was actively working with both the Scottish Executive and COSLA in respect of the implementation of the new national travel concession arrangements. Members would continue to be updated on progress on this and the implications for the Council.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the award of a 'best value' contract to Strathtay Scottish Limited for the Dundee-Murroes-Glamis-(Kirriemuir) service, as detailed in the Report;
- (ii) to note progress on the implementation of the new Scotland-wide free bus Travel Concession Scheme for elderly and disabled people to be introduced from April 2006; and
- (iii) to note the proposals for the introduction of a concessionary travel scheme for national bus, ferry and rail concessionary travel for young people.

6. BRIDGE AND CYCLEWAY LINK - ELLIOT, ARBROATH

With reference to Article 23 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004, there was submitted [Report No 693/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport seeking approval for the installation of a bridge over the Elliot Water, Arbroath and the creation of cycleway links as part of the Angus Coastal Path.

The Report indicated that the proposed works would involve the installation of a 15 metre aerial mast bridge on Gabion abutments. This was the design of bridge which was being installed at various locations in the Glens but had a deck width of at least 1.5 metres and ramped approaches to accommodate cyclists as well as pedestrians. Cycleways would also be constructed to link westwards to the level crossing at Elliot and eastwards to connect with the existing path along the front of the West Links.

The Report concluded that the creation of the link across the Elliot Water would enhance the recently established Arbroath Path Network and in the longer term would be a critical link in the Angus Coastal Path.

Having heard Councillors King and Nield welcome the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the installation of a bridge over the Elliot Water and associated cycleway links, as outlined in the Report, at an estimated cost of £45,000, the expenditure to be met from the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Fund for 2005/2006; and
- (ii) to note that, in the opinion of the Director of Planning and Transport, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance, the contract for the installation of the bridge comprised services previously identified to be of a specialist nature and should therefore, in line with previous decisions, be exempt from competitive tendering in accordance with Financial Regulations, Regulation 16.3.2(b).

7. AUCHMITHIE PATHWAYS AND ACCESS

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 694/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport seeking approval, in principle, for the extension of the coastal path to Auchmithie and a package of works in Auchmithie.

The Report proposed that the Angus Coastal Path be extended from Seaton Den/ Carlinghaugh Bay to Auchmithie, thus completing the formal link between the village and the Arbroath Path Network. A range of community and visitor facilities was also proposed in the village.

The Report concluded that the extension of the Angus Coastal Path to Auchmithie, together with the proposed works in the village, would enhance the tourism potential of the area and Auchmithie in particular. This would complement community led initiatives to promote the cultural and historic importance of the village.

Having heard Councillor Spink welcome the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve, in principle, the extension of the coastal path from Seaton Den to Auchmithie and a package of works on Auchmithie as outlined in the Report;
- (ii) to approve public consultation being undertaken on the proposed works;
- (iii) to approve the preparation of more detailed designs and cost estimates; and
- (iv) to await a further report on the proposed works in due course.

8. CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS FUND - PROGRAMME OF WORKS

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 695/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport and the Director of Roads advising the Committee of the projects undertaken through the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Fund during 2004/2005 and seeking approval of the programme of projects to be funded during the current financial year.

The Report indicated that the funding of Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets projects would greatly assist the Council in meeting its aims and objectives contained in both the Angus Local Transport Strategy and the Angus Countryside Access Strategy and full use would be made of the available allocation. A summary of the proposed programme of projects to be undertaken during the current financial year was attached to the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the programme of projects undertaken during the financial year 2004/2005; and
- (ii) to approve the programme of projects to be undertaken during the current financial year as outlined in the Report.

9. SCOTTISH WATER INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 October 2004, and item 2(b) above, there was submitted [Report No 696/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating members on the development of Scottish Water's Investment Programme and including the response submitted on behalf of the Council to COSLA identifying key priorities in removing development constraints.

The Report indicated that the parameters within which Scottish Water was now operating continued to be clarified through various events and developments at both national and local levels. Following the serious shortcomings arising from the current Scottish Water Investment Programme (Quality and Standards II), there was an opportunity to address strategic constraints on development via the Quality and Standards III Programme. This continued to point to the need for a co-ordinated approach to future investment which was based upon the scale and location of future development as agreed through the statutory development plan process, even if the investment was part funded by developers. The timing of future investment in key schemes during the 2006-2014 period was likely to raise competing demands across Scotland. It was therefore important that there was an equitable distribution which reflected local needs and priorities as well as national considerations. In particular, a balance was required where the development needs of small towns, villages and rural areas was properly recognised and provided for alongside investment in larger urban areas. Again, timely investment was required to release development, with priority given to land identified in Development Plans.

The Report concluded that confirmation of Scottish Water's investment and timing was required before Scottish Ministers would approve any flood prevention order promoted by the Council. It was intended to place the Brechin Flood Prevention Order in December 2005 and thereafter the commitment to, and the timing of, flood proofing works to sewers was vital to the programmed implementation of Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme between 2006 and 2008.

Having heard Councillors Mowatt, Mackintosh and Myles comment on the contents of the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the general position reached in the preparation and development of Scottish Water's Quality and Standards III Programme and related measures;
- (ii) to homologate the comments forwarded to COSLA on behalf of the Council in response to the request to identify key priorities for the remediation of development constraints, as set out in Appendix 3 to the Report;
- (iii) to note the current position on drainage issues at Kirriemuir, and on sewerage flooding at River Street, Brechin; and
- (iv) to note the revised liaison and contact arrangements being introduced by Scottish Water, with a view to improving communications with individual Councils.

10. CARNOUSTIE TOURISM FACILITIES

With reference to Article 47 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 17 March 2005, there was submitted [Report No 697/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport seeking approval, in principle, for a range of tourism and leisure facilities in Carnoustie.

The Report indicated that the seafront at Carnoustie represented a major environmental and recreational resource but facilities were now limited and the area was in need of revitalisation. The redevelopment of the area, coupled with image enhancement works, would greatly improve the appearance and attraction of the town both during and after the Open Championship in 2007.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve, in principle, the programme of enhancement and redevelopment works at various locations throughout Carnoustie, as outlined in the Report;
- (ii) to note the financial implications as outlined in the Report;
- (iii) to approve public consultation being undertaken, as and when appropriate, and to note that the Committee would be kept informed on the exercise;
- (iv) to approve detailed designs and cost estimates for the various elements of the proposed programme being prepared in due course;
- (v) to approve an application for European funding under ERDF Priority 2 being submitted; and
- (vi) to await further reports on the programme of works in due course.

11. PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF SALMON BOTHY, LINKS PARADE, CARNOUSTIE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 698/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport and the Director of Property Services seeking approval for the acquisition of the Salmon Bothy, Links Parade, Carnoustie as part of a programme of image enhancement works in Carnoustie.

The Report indicated that the small semi-derelict property was in an extremely prominent location on the main route to the Championship Golf Course and its early acquisition by the Council would ensure that it was available as part of the proposed programme of image enhancement works prior to the Open Championship in 2007.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to approve the acquisition of the Salmon Bothy, Links Parade, Carnoustie, on the provisional terms and conditions as detailed in the Report.

12. FINALISED ANGUS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - PROGRESS TOWARDS PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY - APPOINTMENT OF REPORTERS

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 699/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating members on the progress of arrangements associated with a Public Local Inquiry to be held provisionally in late 2005 and seeking confirmation of the appointment of Inquiry Reporters.

The Report indicated that the assessment of objections made to the Finalised Local Plan Review and negotiation with objectors was ongoing, and while it was hoped that resolution of some objections would be possible, a Public Local Inquiry would be required for objections not withdrawn. An initial step in this process was the appointment of two Scottish Executive Reporters.

The Report concluded that further details on suggested modifications to the Finalised Plan and arrangements for the Public Inquiry would be reported to the Committee in due course.

Having heard Councillor Ellis on the importance of utilising facilities that would allow residents of rural communities engage in the process, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the arrangements to date for progressing the Angus Local Plan Review Inquiry, including:-

- (a) confirmation of the appointment of Malcolm Smith BA (Hons) MRTPI and Richard G Dent BA (Hons) Dip TP FRTPI as co-Reporters to conduct the Angus Local Plan Review Inquiry;
 - (b) to note the provisional arrangements for the Local Plan Inquiry venue; and
 - (c) to delegate to the Director of Planning and Transport, in consultation with the Director of Law and Administration, the appointment of legal counsel, if required, to help present the Council's case at a Public Local Inquiry;
- (ii) to note the progress on assessment of objections was continuing and would be reported to Committee in due course; and
 - (iii) to instruct the Director of Planning and Transport to discuss with Reporter the possibility of using rural venues for parts of the Inquiry.

13. RESULTS OF TENDERS FOR LOCAL BUS SERVICE PROVISION

With reference to Article 17 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 26 May 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 611/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport and the Director of Education detailing the results of a recent tendering exercise on the Montrose-Brechin-Stracathro-Edzell corridor (Service 30) and recommending that the contract be awarded to the lowest tenderer.

The Report indicated that the school conveyance contracts were being re-tendered this year in the Brechin and Montrose areas. One of the contracts due to be re-tendered was closely inter-worked with the local bus service network and the current operator, Strathtay Scottish Ltd had intimated that it would de-register a number of journeys when its existing school contract (ABN/20) terminated in the summer. Tenders had been sought for replacement journeys to meet both the local bus and education transport requirements and these were the subject of the Report.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to the award of the Montrose-Brechin-Stracathro-Edzell contract (A169) to M W Nicoll Hirers Ltd.

14. ROADS DEPARTMENT - ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

With reference to Article 28 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 701/05](#) by the Director of Roads providing an update on key health and safety issues/actions within the Roads Department during the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 and setting out further health and safety actions planned for 2005/2006.

The Report indicated that the low number of accidents recorded in the Roads Department during 2004/2005 was attributed to the pro-active approach to carrying out risk assessments in relation to the various service activities that the Department carried out. Other contributing factors included the continuous review of health and safety training needs and the regular monitoring of both health and safety management procedures and the work place environment. The Department would endeavour to build on its excellent safety record and to reduce the potential for accidents and lost working days that might result from such accidents.

Having heard the Convener advise members that the Council's figure for overall sickness absence was 4.51% and not 8.98% as stated at 3.1.2 of the Report, the Committee agreed to note and approve the contents of the Report.

15. STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS' PERFORMANCE IN ANGUS - 2003/2004 AND 2004/2005

There was submitted [Report No 702/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing the performance of statutory undertakers operating in Angus in 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 based on inspections of their roadworks as required under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. It also detailed the results of the Tayforth Area Reinstatement Coring Programme, with particular reference to Angus, and noted proposals for various amendments to the New Roads and Street Works Act in the Transport (Scotland) Bill.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the performance of statutory undertakers in Angus in 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 based on the visual inspection regime; and in 2003/2004 based on the Tayforth area coring programme;
- (ii) to note the recent proposals in the Transport (Scotland) Bill for the establishment of a Scottish Roadworks Commissioner to act as a "watchdog" on the activities carried out under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 by both local authorities and Statutory Undertakers; and
- (iii) to note the possible financial implications for the Council with consideration of proposals for the Scottish roads authorities to be penalised if their own roadworks extended beyond the original programmed timescale.

16. SCOTTISH ROAD MAINTENANCE CONDITION SURVEY (SRMCS) - YEAR 3 SURVEY RESULTS AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 September 2004, there was submitted [Report No 703/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey Results for 2004/2005 along with progress on the introduction of Asset Management for roads.

The Report indicated that the survey for 2004/2005 had experienced problems in achieving coverage target levels and as a result had covered 98.4% of A-class roads, 41.86% of B-class roads, 47.23% of C-class roads and only 11.93% of unclassified roads in Angus. It was noted that there was a 2.92% increase in the overall Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI), from 34.5% in 2003/2004 to 37.42% in 2004/2005. The percentage figures for resurfacing and surface treatment of the road network in 2004/2005 showed a 0.12% and 0.29% increase respectively.

The Report also indicated that the Society of Chief Officers for Transportation in Scotland had agreement, in principle, from 23 of the 32 local roads authorities and the Scottish Executive to take forward asset management proposals at a national level.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) results for 2004/2005; and
- (ii) to note the progress on Asset Management for the road network and to support the SCOTS initiative for the development/procurement of a national asset management system for road network infrastructure.

17. NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONSENTS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Roads Committee of 17 April 2003, there was submitted [Report No 704/05](#) by the Director of Roads informing the Committee of new road construction consents which had been granted, under delegated authority, by the Director of Roads in 2004/2005.

The Committee agreed to note the new road construction consents as set out in the Appendix to the Report.

18. NEW STREET NAMES

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 April 2004, there was submitted [Report No 705/05](#) by the Director of Roads informing the Committee of new street names which had been authorised in 2004/2005 under delegated authority, after consultation with the Convener and the local member.

Having heard various members express their support, the Committee agreed to note the list of new street names as set out in the Appendix to the Report.

19. NATIONAL BIKE WEEK 2005: 11-19 JUNE 2005

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 April 2004, there was submitted [Report No 706/05](#) by the Director of Roads outlining the proposed arrangements to mark National Bike Week 2005. The Report indicated that National Bike Week would be held between 11 and 19 June 2005 and advised that it would be appropriate that the Council mark the occasion by hosting cycling events in various burghs and encouraging greater use of cycling, where appropriate.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that National Bike Week would commence on 11 June 2005, with the primary aim of promoting the benefits of increased cycling as a means of transport;
- (ii) to note that various organised rides and other events would be held in the various burghs - Arbroath, Carnoustie, Forfar, Monifieth and Montrose - during the week Monday 13 to Friday 17 June 2005, to which Council staff, cycling supporters and elected members had been invited; and
- (iii) to note that evening Fun Runs, in conjunction with the Cycle Touring Club, would be held from Arbroath, Brechin and Forfar Leisure Centres respectively via various routes to which Council staff, cycling supporters and elected members had also been invited.

20. ARBROATH HARBOUR ENVIRONS ENHANCEMENT

There was submitted [Report No 707/05](#) by the Director of Roads recommending approval of a proposed scheme to improve the environs of Arbroath Harbour.

The Report indicated that there were currently three projects underway to re-invigorate the harbour, after the decline of the fishing industry, through diversification into leisure and tourism markets and, for the harbour to act successfully as a key gateway for tourists and visitors, its environs required to be of good quality and appearance. The proposed project - the Arbroath Harbour Environs Enhancement - addressed identified shortcomings in the area around the harbour and would significantly enhance the environmental quality of the area and provide a sustainable resource that would benefit harbour users and the local community, as well as visitors to the town. The design would, as much as possible, provide barrier free access, thus maximising opportunities for all.

The Report concluded that assigning part of the Roads Capital Budget to the enhancement programme, and thus securing external funding, represented best value for the Council and that this option also represented better value in terms of a degree of acceleration in dealing with the necessary repairs and safety concerns.

Having heard Councillor King welcome the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed improvements to the environs in and around Arbroath Harbour at an estimated cost of £505,000;
- (ii) to note that discussions with Scottish Enterprise Tayside were in progress regarding their contribution to the project and that this was anticipated to be £120,000;
- (iii) to note that an application for Community Economic Development funding had been successful and that an offer had been received for funding at 40% of the eligible cost, which equated to a grant of £189,360;
- (iv) to note that the Council's contribution of £196,000 would be contained within the Roads Department's future Capital Programme for 2005-2009; and
- (v) to approve the necessary adjustment to the Capital Plan to accommodate the expenditure.

21. BARRY BURN FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME - REMEDIAL WORKS

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 708/05](#) by the Director of Roads giving details of the tenders received for the Barry Burn Flood Prevention Scheme - Remedial Works project and recommending the acceptance of the lowest tender submitted by D J Laing (Contracts) Ltd.

The Report indicated that JBA Consultancy's report advised that, although long lengths of the existing flood prevention embankments (levees) provided the design standard of protection (1 in 100 year flood), there were sections where the tops of the embankments were lower than the original design levels and remedial works were therefore necessary to restore the required standard of protection, and that, with minimal additional work, protecting against a 1 in 200 year flood could and should be provided.

The Committee agreed to approve acceptance of the lowest tender, that of D J Laing (Contracts) Ltd, to carry out the Barry Burn Flood Prevention Scheme - Remedial Works in the sum of £158,489.80.

22. WINTER MAINTENANCE - 2004/2005 EXPENDITURE REVIEW

With reference to Article 30 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 709/05](#) by the Director of Roads informing the Committee of the service delivery, weather severity and outturn expenditure on winter maintenance for 2004/2005.

The Report indicated that, although from most people's perception the winter of 2004/2005 had been a relatively uneventful period, the statistics, as in the previous year, proved something different. 2004/2005 had the third highest number of days where the road surface temperature was below freezing since the formation of Angus Council. It was also the second highest year in terms of the number of days with fresh snow lying. The weather statistics were provided in Appendix 1 to the Report along with the treatment figures in Appendix 2.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that the number of evenings and mornings where treatment of the road network was necessary during the 2004/2005 winter season was some 11% above the eight year average;
- (ii) to note that the outturn expenditure on winter maintenance for 2004/2005 was £1,646,892 (compared to a budget of £1,574,346 for third party payments), resulting in an overspend of £72,546 (+ 5%); and
- (iii) to note that this excess expenditure on winter maintenance would be contained within the overall Roads Revenue budget for 2004/2005 by budget virement utilising, if necessary, part of the minimum £100,000 balance held in reserve in the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs Fund;
- (iv) to note that the 2005/2006 budget provision for winter maintenance (£1,599,346) would be taken into account in framing the Winter Maintenance Policy and Service Provision proposals for 2005/2006; and
- (v) to authorise the Director of Roads to procure best value arrangements for the provision of salt and weather forecast services for 2005/2006.

23. WORKS AWARDED TO TAYSIDE CONTRACTS

With reference to Article 45 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 June 2003, there was submitted and noted [Report No 710/05](#) by the Director of Roads giving details of the works awarded to Tayside Contracts on behalf of the Council by the Director of Roads, during the financial year 2004/2005.

24. THREE YEAR CONTRACT FOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF ARBROATH HARBOUR - TENDER REPORT

There was submitted [Report No 711/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing the tenders received for the three year contract for maintenance dredging at Arbroath Harbour and recommending acceptance of the lowest tender submitted. The works comprised the dredging of the inner and outer harbour areas and the navigation channel for the next three years.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve acceptance of the lowest tender for the contract for Arbroath Harbour Dredging, that of the Moray Council, in the amount of £138,575.00; and
- (ii) to note that funding for the works could be met from the Roads Revenue Budget 2005/2006 and Provisional Revenue Budgets for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

25. 'SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS' AT GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONIFIETH AND ROSEMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL, HILLSIDE, MONTROSE

There was submitted [Report No 712/05](#) by the Director of Roads dealing with proposals to introduce 'school keep clear' markings in West Grange Road, Monifieth and Hospital Road, Hillside, Montrose.

The Report indicated that, in the interest of pedestrian and traffic safety and free traffic flow, it was considered that the introduction of 'school keep clear' markings was appropriate at these locations and the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order was required in order to implement the proposals.

The Committee agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce 'school keep clear' markings in West Grange Road, Monifieth adjacent to Grange Primary School and Hospital Road, Hillside adjacent to Rosemount Primary School.

26. HOUSING FOOTPATH PROGRAMMES

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of the Housing Committee of 2 June 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 659/05](#) by the Director of Housing and the Director of Roads advising members on the progress towards the upgrading of the Angus Council Housing Footpaths and putting forward a programme of work for 2005/2006.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress on the inspections and assessments of Housing footpaths; and
- (ii) to approve the programme of works for 2005/2006.

27. TRAFFIC ORDERS

(a) Traffic Regulation Orders - Update

With reference to Article 16(c) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005, there was submitted and noted [Report No 713/05](#) by the Director of Roads providing an update of Traffic Regulation Orders currently being processed and their stage of progress as at 30 April 2005.

(b) Shanwell Road, Carnoustie - Traffic Management

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 October 2004, there was submitted [Report No 714/05](#) by the Director of Roads dealing with proposals to alter the traffic management arrangements on a section of Shanwell Road, Carnoustie.

The Report indicated that road improvements were proposed as part of a large housing development at Newton Road/Balmachie Road, Carnoustie, and that in the interest of traffic safety and free traffic flow, the promotion of an appropriate Traffic Regulation Order was required to restrict a section of Shanwell Road to one-way traffic.

The Committee agreed to the promotion of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order to introduce one-way traffic on a section of Shanwell Road, Carnoustie.

(c) Variation of Speed Limit at Braehead Road, Letham

There was submitted [Report No 715/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing a proposed alteration to the current speed limit at Braehead Road, Letham.

The Report indicated that, in the interest of pedestrian and traffic safety, an alteration to the speed limit on Braehead Road, Letham was considered appropriate and that a variation of the current Traffic Regulation Order to impose the new limit was therefore necessary.

The Committee agreed to the promotion of the necessary Traffic Regulation Variation Order to effect changes to the speed limit at Braehead Road, Letham to a legally enforceable 30 mph speed limit.

(d) Angus Council (Speed Limits) (Variation) Order 2005

With reference to Article 31 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004, there was submitted [Report No 716/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration relating to the introduction of an Order to vary the existing Angus Council (Speed Limits) Order 1999 in order to introduce permanent new speed limits and alter existing speed limits at various locations.

The Committee agreed to approve the making of the Order.

(e) Angus Council (Various Roads Adjacent to Schools) (Variable 20 mph Speed Limit) (Variation) Order 2005

With reference to Article 31 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004, there was submitted [Report No 717/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration relating to the introduction of an Order to vary the existing Angus Council (Various Roads Adjacent to Schools) (Variable 20 mph Speed Limit) Order 2004 for the purpose of introducing further reduced speed limits on roads adjacent to schools.

The Committee agreed to approve the making of the Order.

28. UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

With reference to Article 24 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005, there was submitted Report No 719/05 by the Director of Planning and Transport providing various statistics, graphs and charts showing unemployment rates by travel to work, the numbers and ages of unemployed persons, duration of unemployment and the number of vacancies in Angus and neighbouring authorities for the month of March 2005.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

29. HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 28 APRIL-9 JUNE 2005

With reference to Article 24 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 720/05](#) by the Chief Executive identifying the highlights and achievements of the work within the Economic Development Unit for the period 28 April-9 June 2005.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

30. TARTAN DAY "WELCOME HOME" 2005

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of this Committee of 15 July 2004, there was submitted [Report No 723/05](#) by the Chief Executive summarising the costs and outcomes of the Tartan Day "Welcome Home" 2005 celebrations and seeking approval for exemption to the normal tender arrangements under financial regulations to enable the continuation of the existing contract, with Marketing and PR Consultants, Hallogen & Sunsol, in preparation for the 2006 Tartan Day celebrations.

The Report indicated that the continuation of the contract with the Marketing and PR specialists, Hallogen & Sunsol, would ensure that work continued in attracting sponsorship for the core Tartan Day programme in Angus, in raising the national profile of a national Tartan Day with Arbroath at its centre, and in expanding the All-Party Parliamentary Group to take in Westminster, Congress and the Senate in the United States.

Having heard from a number of members on various aspects of the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the costs and outcomes of Tartan Day 2005;
- (ii) to approve an exemption from normal tendering procedures under Financial Regulations 16.3.2(b) to permit the continuation of the existing contract with consultants Hallogen & Sunsol for a further 12 months;
- (iii) to approve the expenditure of £22,000 in 2005/2006 to be met from the Economic Development Revenue Budget for 2005/2006 and £2,000 to be met in 2006/2007 to enable the continuation of the contract with consultants, Hallogen & Sunsol to enable them to continue work on preparations for Tartan Day 2006; and
- (iv) to approve the expenditure of £16,000 to be met from the Angus Ahead Budget within the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 Economic Development Revenue Budgets for the Scotland's Tartan Day 2006 events programme, which would include a Tartan Gala Dinner, Business Breakfast and Golf Challenge.

31. RIVER SOUTH ESK, CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

There was submitted [Joint Report No 724/05](#) by the Chief Executive, the Director of Planning and Transport and the Director of Roads advising the Committee that the Esk District Salmon Fisheries Board had approached the Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Cairngorms National Park Authority and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency for support to prepare a management plan for the River South Esk catchment area and seeking approval to contribute towards Phase 1 of the development of a Catchment Management Plan.

The Report indicated that a River South Esk Catchment Management Plan would identify the various environmental, land use and economic issues associated with the river catchment and would develop a sustainable management structure, which recognised the various stakeholder interests, whilst realising the environmental, economic and social potentials associated with the river. To allow the plan to be fully developed, it was proposed that the Council contribute £3,000 towards the cost of an initial scoping report to be prepared by the Esk District Salmon Fisheries Board.

The Committee agreed to approve a contribution of £3,000 towards Phase 1 of the development of a River South Esk Catchment Management Plan to be met, as outlined in the Report, subject to:-

- (i) the Esk District Salmon Fisheries Board confirming that the full funding package of £8,860, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the Report, had been secured;
- (ii) there being no commitment towards further phases of the South Esk Catchment Management Plan without further consideration of the implications by this Committee; and

- (iii) the Council's representatives on the Steering Group receiving satisfactory clarification of the anticipated relationship between the Catchment Management Plan and any subsequent River Basin Management Plan.

32. PRODUCTION OF BIODIESEL FROM OILSEED RAPE

There was submitted [Report No 725/05](#) by the Chief Executive advising the Committee that Aberdeenshire Council was leading a project to evaluate the economics of using oilseed rape to produce biodiesel over the north-east of Scotland and discussing the background to the project, its scope, and the possible environmental benefits to be gained if it was implemented.

The Report indicated that the project offered Angus Council the chance to help the environment, achieve some of its "green" aspirations and assist the local agricultural sector by participating in a scheme to produce biodiesel from oil seed rape. If such a scheme was progressed on a co-operative basis across the whole north-east of Scotland, it would stand a greater chance of success due to increased economies of scale and it was recommended that the Committee approve the initial steps to investigate the feasibility of the project.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

33. ORCHARDBANK BUSINESS PARK, FORFAR - VARIATIONS TO INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 726/05](#) by the Chief Executive detailing variations to the contract for the main infrastructure works at Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar and advising that these items had been agreed by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Roads.

The Report indicated that, while a number of unforeseen items of expenditure had been incurred by the main contract, the total project was still anticipated to fall within the original budget allocation. Although the project had experienced an overrun, due primarily to delays in finalising wayleaves with Scottish and Southern Electric, this had not unduly hampered development on the site, with work on the new Housing Department offices able to proceed before the main infrastructure works had been completed.

The Report concluded that interest in the Orchardbank Business Park remained strong and that the joint venture partners were presently negotiating with a number of prospective occupiers, and it was hoped that several land sales could be concluded this year.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the variations to the contract for main infrastructure works at Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar, which had been agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of Roads, as detailed in the Report.

34. ANGUS DIGITAL MEDIA CENTRE - FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

With reference to Article 26 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 November 2004, there was submitted [Joint Report No 727/05](#) by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance outlining the financial performance of Angus Digital Media Centre (ADMC) Ltd for the financial year ended 31 March 2005.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and the surplus generated by ADMC Ltd for the financial year ended 31 March 2005; and
- (ii) to note that the next report presented to the Committee would cover the period 30 June 2005; and

- (iii) to note that the audited final accounts would be presented to the Committee in October, following their approval by ADMC's Board in August.

35. PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL, BRECHIN

With reference to Article 19 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 26 May 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 617/05](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Property Services advising members that a further area of land at Maisondieu Primary School, Brechin could be declared surplus to requirements and recommending disposal to the developer of the adjacent site, together with the finalised programme of necessary Council work in the immediate area.

The Report indicated that the detailed design of the residential development for the site at Maisondieu Primary School, Brechin had been prolonged due to access difficulties. The sale of this additional area of land to the developers would provide a satisfactory solution, together with generating an additional capital receipt to the Council.

Having heard Councillor Myles on access issues at the site, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to approve that the access road measuring 0.027 Ha or thereby at Maisondieu Primary School, Brechin be declared to surplus to the requirements of the Council;
- (ii) to approve the finalised work rationalisation programme at a cost of £125,000 in and around the Maisondieu site to be met from the £170,000 total Capital Receipt;
- (iii) to note that the £45,000 Capital Receipt balance would be available for Corporate Capital Budget purposes; and
- (iv) to instruct the Director of Property Services to liaise with Councillor Myles with respect to his concerns over access arrangements at the site.

36. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 27(2), that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of items 37 and 38 below, so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraph 6.

37. POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERTAY

There was submitted [Report No 728/05](#) by the Chief Executive outlining the status of discussions held between Angus Council, Angus Digital Media Centre and the University of Abertay regarding future potential for collaboration and seeking approval, in principle, to proceed with the proposals, subject to a satisfactory outcome of the business case and legal format.

The Report indicated that a joint venture between the Council, Angus Digital Media Centre (ADMC) and the University of Abertay (UAD) could strengthen the strategic role of ADMC as a centre of excellence in the education sector to the benefit and sustainability of ADMC itself and Brechin.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations, as detailed in the Report.

38. MONTROSE HARBOUR MARKET INVESTIGATIONS STUDY

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 April 2004, there was submitted [Report No 722/05](#) by the Chief Executive advising the Committee that the Market Investigation study into Montrose Harbour, funded jointly by Angus Council, Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Leader+ had been completed and summarising the findings of the study and recommending that the Council work jointly with Montrose Port, and possibly Scottish Enterprise Tayside, to investigate two of the scenarios identified more fully.

The Report indicated that Montrose Port played an important role in the economy of Angus and Tayside and that the study identified scope for increasing this role in the future but only through a managed approach to both consolidation and expansion by attracting potential public and private sector investment. Further investigation into options and delivery models was required and it was proposed that the Council continue to engage in the process.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the completion of the Montrose Harbour Market Investigation study;
- (ii) to authorise the Economic Development Manager to work with Montrose Port Authority, and possibly Scottish Enterprise Tayside, to further investigate scenarios 2 and 3 from the report more fully; and
- (iii) to authorise the Economic Development Manager to report back to this Committee with recommendations.