

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 13 October 2005 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DAVID SELFRIDGE, KITTY RITCHIE, IAN ANGUS, FRANK ELLIS, JACK GIBB, ALEX KING, IAN MACKINTOSH, STEWART McGLYNN, JOY MOWATT, ROBERT MYLES, MARK SALMOND, IAIN GAUL (substitute for RON SCRIMGEOUR), RICHARD SPEIRS and ROBERT SPINK.

Apologies:- Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors PETER NIELD and RON SCRIMGEOUR.

Councillor SELFRIDGE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ritchie declared an interest in item 31 as Vice-Convener of Infrastructure Services Committee.

Councillors Mowatt and Gibb declared an interest in items 30(a) and 30(b) as Directors of Angus Digital Media Centre Ltd.

Councillor Mowatt also declared an interest in item 33 as a member of the Pictish Arts Society and indicated that she would not be taking part in the discussion.

Councillor Mackintosh declared an interest in item 7 as a member of the Local Access Forum.

2. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2005](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

Constitution of Regional Transport Partnerships (Article 5 refers)

Arising therefrom, the Committee noted that the Minister for Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning had agreed that the Council be now entitled to two members on the Central and Tay Transport Partnership, with Dundee City, Perth and Kinross and Stirling Councils be entitled to three, three and two members, respectively.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the position; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Planning and Transport to advise the Scottish Executive of this Council's views that there should be an equality of representation from each of the four Constituent authorities.

(b) Special Meeting

The [minute of the special meeting of this Committee of 8 September 2005](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(c) Executive Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of 15 September 2005](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

3. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1176/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating members on proposed changes to local bus services in Angus. In addition, members were advised of Christmas and New Year local bus service provision, the submission of a bid for further bus route development grant funding and changes to the operation of Scottish City Link Services.

The Report indicated that the local bus service network continued to be kept under review and amended to meet passenger demand, with the subsidised services being subject to regular monitoring and where they were not performing to the subsidy criteria, these services were recommended for withdrawal.

New operators were entitled to join the Council's Travel Concession Scheme and opportunities for external funding continued to be pursued.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the recent commercial changes to local bus services in Angus;
- (ii) to note the re-timing of the morning peak Service 30 journey between Edzell and Brechin in order to maintain the scheduled timetable;
- (iii) to the variation of Service 50 in order to provide an all year round service to the Millgate Loan/Ladyloan area of Arbroath;
- (iv) to the withdrawal of Service 119A between Brechin and Banks of Brechin from 12 December 2005 as a result of extremely low usage of the service;
- (v) to note the provision of Saturday journeys on the Forfar - Glamis - Newtyle/Kirriemuir corridor under a subsidy contract between Glamis Castle and Meffan's Coaches;
- (vi) to the variation of Service 81 to provide additional return journeys on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from Carnoustie, via Monifieth and Monikie, to Forfar;
- (vii) to note the success of the flexibly routed services introduced in the Kirriemuir area in January 2005 and agree that the contract is amended from two months notice of termination to have a fixed end date of 12 August 2006;
- (viii) to note the proposed Christmas and New Year local bus service levels to be provided by Strathtay Scottish Ltd;
- (ix) to the admission of Strathmore Travel to the Council's Travel Concession Scheme from 10 October 2005;
- (x) to note the re-submission to the Bus Route Development Grant bid for enhanced services on the Kirriemuir - Forfar - Arbroath corridor;
- (xi) to note the creation of a new joint venture to deliver Scotland's coach services;
- (xii) to authorise Chris Boyle one of the Council's Transport Officers, to take up the position of Chair of the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers (Scotland) Information and Ticketing Sub-Committee; and
- (xiii) to note that following a public meeting, it had been agreed jointly with Aberdeenshire Council that from 14 November 2005, Strathtay Scottish would operate a commercial local bus service on the Brechin - Edzell - Laurencekirk route primarily for the benefit of Angus pupils attending Mearns Academy.

4. SCOTLAND-WIDE FREE BUS SCHEME FOR OLDER AND DISABLED PERSONS

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1177/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport informing members of the implementation plan for the introduction of the new Scotland-wide Free Bus Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons.

The Report indicated that work was on-going in preparation for the introduction of this scheme with effect from 1 April 2006 and a further Report would be submitted as soon as further information on funding and entitlement was available.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the status of the negotiations in respect of funding for the new Travel Concession Scheme; and
- (ii) to note the proposals for the introduction of entitlement cards to access the new Scotland-wide Free Bus Travel Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons.

5. EXTENSION OF REAL TIME INFORMATION IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of this Committee of 24 February 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1178/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating members on the progress to date of extending Real Time Information throughout Angus.

The Report indicated that much of the background work had been completed and testing for and the installation of the roadside equipment was due to commence shortly.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress to date in respect of extending Real Time Information provision throughout Angus; and
- (ii) to approve the potential list of locations for Real Time Information road-side displays, as detailed in the Report.

6. AUCHMITHIE PATHWAYS AND ACCESS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1179/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating members on the proposed extension of the coastal path to Auchmithie together with a package of works in the village and seeking authority to proceed with the works.

The Report indicated that extension of the coastal path and the proposed works in the village hall would enhance the tourism potential of the area which would compliment community led initiatives to promote the cultural and historic importance of the village.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to proceed with the extension of the coastal path to Auchmithie and a package of works in Auchmithie as outlined in the Report subject to the Council taking possession of the necessary land and confirmation of external funding;
- (iii) to authorise a financial contribution to the project of £87,000, this expenditure to be met from the Planning and Transport Capital Budget (Rural Initiatives) for 2005/06 and 2006/07 (£72,000) and the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Fund for 2005/06 (£15,000);
- (iv) to note that the Planning and Transport Financial Plan would be amended at the next opportunity to reflect the funding arrangements set out in the Report;

- (v) to authorise the Director of Property Services and the Director of Law and Administration to enter into negotiations with Angus Housing Association for the acquisition of the strip of ground adjacent to the public road and the village hall;
- (vi) to authorise the Director of Planning and Transport and the Director of Law and Administration to negotiate an agreement with the relevant landowners for the extension of the coastal path;
- (vii) to authorise the Director of Planning and Transport, the Director of Property Services and the Director of Law and Administration to negotiate the transfer of the land to the rear of the village hall;
- (viii) to authorise the Director of Roads to proceed with the detailed designs and the procurement of the works;
- (ix) to instigate Notice of Intention to Develop procedures; and
- (x) to note the Local Plan implications for the Auchmithie village statement and agree that the proposed modifications set out in the Appendix to the Report be published as a second round of pre-inquiry modifications, with any objections to the proposed modifications to be reported back to this Committee.

7. LOCAL ACCESS FORUM - MEMBERSHIP

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1180/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising of the resignation of Morven Petrie as a member of the Local Access Forum, in view of work commitments and recommending the appointment of a replacement member.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to appoint Colin Whyte as one of the four representatives of Users Groups on the Local Access Forum.

8. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - ARBROATH ROAD, DUNDEE

There was submitted [Report No 1181/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising members that Dundee City Council had consulted Angus Council on a planning application for 39 houses on land east of Linlathen Lodge, Arbroath Road, Dundee, which raised issues of conformity with the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan and the Dundee Local Plan Review.

The Report indicated that there was only limited scope for releasing greenfield land for housing development in the east of Dundee without seriously prejudicing the implementation of the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan Strategy and the recently adopted Dundee Local Plan Review already allocated two major greenfield sites for 250 houses in the period up to 2011. The current planning application for 39 houses could open up further large scale greenfield housing developments in the east of the city.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to homologate the decision of the Director of Planning and Transport to object to application number 05/00673(FUL) for residential development on land east of Linlathen Lodge, Arbroath Road, Dundee on the grounds that the proposal would have the potential to open up further large scale greenfield housing development to the east of the city and as such was not in conformity with the strategy and policies of both the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan and the Dundee Local Plan Review.

9. DRAFT SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY 8 TOWN CENTRES

There was submitted [Report No 1182/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport commenting on and providing a suggested basis for the Council's response to the planning guidance for town centres contained in the consultative draft Scottish Planning Policy 8 which when finalised, would replace the existing National Planning Policy Guidelines 8 "Town Centres and Retailing".

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the draft Scottish Planning Policy 8 proposing updated National Policy on Planning for Town Centres; and
- (ii) to approve the terms of Report No 1182/05, including members' views on the application of the sequential test to site selection in small towns, as a basis for the Council's response to the Scottish Executive.

10. DRAFT SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY 21 GREEN BELTS

There was submitted [Report No 1183/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport commenting on and providing a suggested basis for the Council's response to the draft guidance on green belts contained in the consultative draft Scottish Planning Policy 21, which when finalised would replace the existing circular "Development in the Countryside and Green Belts" issued in 1985.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the draft Scottish Planning Policy 21 setting out National Policy on greenbelts; and
- (ii) to authorise the submission of Report No 1183/05 as the basis of the Council's response to the Scottish Executive.

The following matter was, on the determination of the Convener, dealt with as a matter of urgency in order that members might be updated on the position at the earliest possible date.

11. FLOODING

The Director of Roads advised members that despite periods of heavy rainfall during the past two days and some local flooding, no properties had been adversely affected.

The Committee noted the position.

12. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE DISCUSSION PAPER: IMPLEMENTING THE WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003: THE DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

There was submitted [Joint Report No 1184/05](#) by the Director of Roads and the Director of Planning and Transport advising members of the distribution of a discussion paper from the Scottish Executive on the implementation of the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003: The Designation of Responsible Authorities and proposing a suitable response.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the discussion paper; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Roads to respond to the discussion paper in the terms detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report.

13. FLOOD PREVENTION AND LAND DRAINAGE (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 - BIENNIAL REPORT

With reference to Article 19 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 November 2003, there was submitted [Report No 1185/05](#) by the Director of Roads seeking approval of the Biennial Report to be published for public information under the Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve publication of the Biennial Report under the Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997, copies of which had been placed in the Members' Lounge.

14. REVIEW OF EXISTING FLUVIAL FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEMES IN ANGUS

There was submitted [Report No 1186/05](#) by the Director of Roads outlining the work recently undertaken by consultants on behalf of the Scottish Executive to investigate existing fluvial flood prevention schemes previously promoted under the Flood Prevention Act 1961 and detailing the draft findings of that work as it applied to such schemes in Angus.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the draft findings of the consultant commissioned by the Scottish Executive to study the existing flood defence schemes in Angus as part of a national study, specifically the Brothock Burn (Arbroath), the Barry Burn (Carnoustie) and the Gairie Burn (Kirriemuir);
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Roads to undertake the identified remedial works associated with the Brothock Burn flood prevention scheme as described in the Report, at the earliest opportunity;
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Roads to liaise as necessary with the relevant Council officers and others with the purpose of reviewing and/or preparing such contingency plans for Council premises potentially vulnerable to flood events in the Brothock Burn catchment (Arbroath);
- (iv) to instruct the Director of Roads to prepare a strategy for the provision of appropriate advice to owners/occupiers of premises potentially vulnerable to flood events in the Brothock Burn catchment (Arbroath) in liaison with relevant Council officers, and to issue such advice as may be determined; and
- (v) to instruct the Director of Roads to bring forward a further report at the earliest opportunity on the Gairie Burn scheme (Kirriemuir) as soon as the final draft report has been received from the consultant.

15. WINTER MAINTENANCE - CHANGE OF PRIORITY ROUTES AS A RESULT OF A92 DUALLING BETWEEN DUNDEE AND ARBROATH

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1187/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing proposed changes to priority salting routes made necessary as a result of the A92 dualling works between Dundee and Arbroath.

The Report indicated that the proposed changes were consistent with the Council's Winter Maintenance Policy following completion of the A92 Dundee to Arbroath dualling and other efficiency changes in Carnoustie and Monifieth.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and

- (ii) to approve the proposed changes to the priority salting routes, as detailed in the Report.

16. WINTER MAINTENANCE - BENCHMARKING

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1188/05](#) by the Director of Roads comparing the Council's winter maintenance provision level with that of neighbouring and other "rural authorities", in terms of the Council's benchmarking family for asset management.

The Report indicated that the comparison represented 30% of Scottish Roads Authorities and had shown that overall, Angus Council provided a level of service in line with these Authorities.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note that as a result of the benchmarking, the Council's winter maintenance services would remain unchanged from those approved by this Committee on 25 August 2005.

17. ARBROATH HARBOUR - BLACK SHED REFURBISHMENT WORKS

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1189/05](#) by the Director of Roads proposing utilisation of part of the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs Fund balances for financial year 2005/2006 to augment Arbroath Townscape Heritage Initiative grant funding for refurbishment works to the Black Shed at Arbroath Harbour.

The Report indicated that the Black Shed, which was owned by the Council and leased to Arbroath Fishermen's Association, was of fairly light construction and although structurally sound, was now in need of major refurbishment.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to authorise the sum of £28,000 from the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs Fund to be utilised to augment grant funding already in place from Arbroath Abbey to Harbour Townscape Heritage Initiative for refurbishment works to the Black Shed at Arbroath Harbour.

18. SELECT LIST OF TENDERERS FOR CARRIAGEWAY AND FOOTWAY WORKS: CHARLES AVENUE, ARBROATH AND FOTHERINGHAM DRIVE, MONIFIETH

There was submitted [Report No 1191/05](#) by the Director of Roads recommending a select list of tenderers for carriageway and footway works in Charles Avenue, Arbroath and Fotheringham Drive, Monifieth, together with associated side roads.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed select list of tenderers for these works as follows:-

Renovo Contractor Ltd
 Dundee Plant Company Ltd
 Delson Contracts Ltd
 Diack & Macaulay Ltd
 King Contractors Ltd
 Tarmac Ltd
 Tayside Contracts
 T & N Gilmartin (Contractors) Ltd
 Leiths (Scotland) Ltd
 Ennstone Thistle Ltd
 The ERDC Group Ltd;

- (ii) to note that the costs of these works were estimated to be £350,000 for Charles Avenue, Arbroath and £250,000 for Fotheringham Drive, Monifieth, both schemes including adjacent side roads;
- (iii) to note that the costs of these schemes (including engineering/administration) would be funded in part from the Roads Capital Budget and in part from the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs Fund, 2005/2006; and
- (iv) to note that a further Report would be submitted detailing the tenders returned and recommending acceptance as appropriate.

19. ROAD SAFETY ACTION PLAN FOR ANGUS

With reference to Article 28 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1192/05](#) by the Director of Roads seeking approval of the draft Roads Safety Action Plan for Angus and authorisation for the publication and distribution of the document.

The Report indicated that the Road Safety Plan was an essential element of the overall strategy for road accident reduction and played a major part in delivering the Council's objectives for healthy, safe and caring communities in the Council's Corporate Plan 2003-2007 and the Angus Community Planning Partnership's priorities for health improvement and community safety.

Various action points had been identified within the draft Plan and the Road Safety Steering Group would be taking these forward.

Following detailed discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the draft Road Safety Action Plan for Angus; and
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Roads to proceed with the publication and distribution of the document.

20. TRAFFIC ORDERS

(a) Traffic Regulation Orders - Update

With reference to Article 27(a) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted and noted [Report No 1193/05](#) by the Director of Roads providing an update of Traffic Regulation Orders currently being processed and their stage of progress as at 30 August 2005;

(b) Temporary Traffic Orders

There was submitted and noted [Report No 1195/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration advising that, at the request of the Director of Roads, four temporary Traffic Orders had been made, as detailed in the Report;

(c) Angus Council (Brechtin Traffic Management) Order 2005

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of the Roads Committee of 24 January 2002, there was submitted [Report No 1194/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration relating to the making of an Order for the purpose of replacing three Tayside Regional Council Traffic Orders and an existing Angus Council Order, and proposing to introduce various amendments to the current traffic management provisions in Brechin.

The Committee noted the objections and observations received and approved the making of the Order, as detailed in the Report.

21. UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

With reference to Article 19 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2005, there was submitted Report No 1207/05 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 July 2005.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

22. HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 25 AUGUST-13 OCTOBER 2005

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1197/05](#) by the Chief Executive identifying the highlights and achievements of the work within the Economic Development Unit for the period 25 August-13 October 2005.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

23. SCOTLAND'S TARTAN DAY GOLF CHALLENGE 2006

With reference to Article 30 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1199/05](#) by the Chief Executive submitting a proposal to market the proposed Scotland's Tartan Day Golf Challenge 2006 as part of the Council's Tartan Day Programme, with a view to attracting overseas visitors to Scotland and Angus in particular, during April 2006.

The Report indicated that development of this package as an annual event would provide significant benefits in terms of tourism, at a time of year which was traditionally difficult for the tourist trade.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the successful outcome of negotiations and preparations for the staging of a new golf tournament entitled "Scotland's Tartan Day Golf Challenge 2006" as part of the Council's core programme for Scotland's Tartan Day celebration in April 2006;
- (ii) to authorise the Chief Executive to take forward the proposed golf tournament as outlined in the report;
- (iii) to agree the exemptions from normal tendering procedures in accordance with Financial Regulation 16.3.2b to enable Platinum Events Management Company Ltd to be contracted to manage the event at an agreed cost of £9,680 and to enable Scotia Travel to be contracted to provide administration of the event and the necessary ABTA and other bonded assurance for prospective customers at an agreed cost of £3,000; and
- (iv) to note that in the unlikely event of the financial viability of the proposed tournament becoming marginal, a further report would be submitted to seek direction on how to proceed.

24. ANGUS IN CHINA INITIATIVE - TRADE MISSION TO CHINA IN MARCH 2006

With reference to Article 21 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1200/05](#) by the Chief Executive detailing specific recommendations for a proposed trade mission to China in March 2006.

The Report indicated that the proposed trade mission would build on the existing links between the Council and Yantai in addition to providing an opportunity for local companies to visit this key market and to receive proper support on the mission.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the proposals for staging the employer-led trade mission to China from 11 to 12 March 2006 as detailed in the Report; and

- (ii) to authorise the Provost and Councillor Murray to participate in the mission, accompanied by two officers.

25. TWIN CITIES TOURISM CONFERENCE, JINAN, SHANDONG PROVINCE - 21-23 OCTOBER 2005

There was submitted [Report No 1201/05](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to authorise attendance by the Economic Development Manager at a Twin Cities tourism conference in Jinan, Shandong Province from 21-23 October 2005.

The Report indicated that attendance at this conference would provide an opportunity to harness links already made with China and to take tourism promotion a stage further by offering tour operators a number of golf packages.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to homologate the decision taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Convener, to authorise attendance by the Economic Development Manager at the proposed Twin Cities tourism conference in Jinan, at a cost of up to £1,100, inclusive of expenses and travel.

26. ANGUS LOAN FUND LTD. AND THE "ANGUS LOAN FUND"

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of the Economic Development Committee of 22 August 1996, there was submitted [Report No 1202/05](#) by the Chief Executive updating members on the operation of Angus Loan Fund Ltd, providing comment on the operation of the "Angus Loan Fund Scheme" and seeking approval for their continued operation.

The Report indicated that it was necessary to review the operation of the Angus Loan Fund Ltd and the value of and procedures relating to the Angus Loan Fund Scheme and this had now been completed.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the continued operation of Angus Loan Fund Ltd;
- (ii) to authorise the Economic Development Manager to represent the interests of the Council and continue in his role as a Director of Angus Loan Fund Ltd;
- (iii) to note that the procedures for administering the company had been reviewed and were to be updated;
- (iv) to note the activity relating to the Angus Loan Fund Scheme and to authorise its continuance;
- (v) to note that the procedures for processing Angus Loan Fund applications had been reviewed and updated; and
- (vi) to note that the Economic Development Manager would submit a Report on the activities of Angus Loan Fund Ltd on an annual basis.

27. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE WORKING FOR FAMILIES FUND ALLOCATION

There was submitted [Report No 1203/05](#) by the Chief Executive informing members of the provisional allocation made to the Council to take forward the Scottish Executive Working for Families Fund and requesting authority to tender should it be successful in securing potential additional funding available from the Scottish Executive to develop the Fund across Angus.

The Report indicated that allocation of additional money and the remit of the Working for Families Fund would enable the Council to target support which it was found would remove barriers to parents in deprived areas, or disadvantaged groups, in accessing employment.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to acknowledge the potential Scottish Executive contribution of £350,000 in 2006/07 and £350,000 in 2007/08 allocated to the Council, to develop the Working for Families Fund, and the potential for additional monies of approximately £40,000 being made available prior to the Fund commencing;
- (iii) to note that in response to the notification of the Working for Families Funding a proposal has already been submitted to the Scottish Executive to apply for additional funding of £40,000;
- (iv) to note the tight timescales involved in the delivery of the Fund;
- (v) to approve the appointment of a consultant, as a matter of urgency, to develop the Council's submission to secure its funding allocation for financial years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 with exemption from normal tendering procedures under paragraph 16.3.2b of the Financial Regulations being applied and subject to the Council being successful in securing additional monies from the Scottish Executive to meet the consultancy costs involved;
- (vi) to authorise the Strategic Planning Group, in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Acting Director of Finance, the Leader of the Council and the Convener, to submit a proposal to the Scottish Executive, to secure the funding allocated;
- (vii) to authorise the appointment of a Project Co-ordinator, as recommended by the Scottish Executive, with a view to the officer being in post by for January 2006, subject to confirmation of the funding for the post being made available through the Scottish Executive; and
- (viii) to note that a further Report would be submitted for information on the details of the project as agreed by the Scottish Executive, prior to implementation on 1 April 2006.

28. ANGUS GRANT SCHEME - FUNDING REQUEST

There was submitted [Report No 1204/05](#) by the Chief Executive advising members of the success of the Angus Grant Scheme and seeking authority to continue support, in conjunction with Scottish Enterprise Tayside, by granting approval of a further contribution of £22,250 to the Scheme.

The Report indicated that the Scheme had made a considerable contribution to business creation, retention and expansion and the grants awarded had assisted 39 small or start-up businesses to diversify or expand, with 299 jobs having been created or safeguarded.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the on-going success of the Angus Grant Scheme;
- (ii) to note the previous successful applications for European Regional Development Fund Grant for a five year period until 31 December 2006 in the eligible area and 31 December 2005 in the transitional area;
- (iii) to note the remit given to the Chief Executive to explore a further ERDF grant to allow for an expansion of the Scheme and the successful outcome of this and to further remit the Chief Executive to explore the possibility of extending the Scheme in the transitional area to end concurrently with that of the eligible area;
- (iv) to note that Scottish Enterprise Tayside had conditionally confirmed a contribution of a further £22,250 subject to it being matched by the Council; and
- (v) to approve the contribution of a further £22,250 from the Council to Angus Loan Fund Ltd.

29. REFURBISHMENT OF UNIT 6, MONTROSE BUSINESS CENTRE

There was submitted [Report No 1206/05](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to refurbish Unit 6 at Montrose Business Centre.

The Report indicated that an existing tenant of the Council had expressed an interest in this vacant unit, to establish a ready-meals branch of his business.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Property Services, to refurbish Unit 6, Montrose Business Centre with a view to bringing it to a food-safe standard.

30. ANGUS DIGITAL MEDIA CENTRE LTD**(a) Annual Accounts for Financial Year 2004/2005**

With reference to Article 33 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 August 2003, there was submitted [Joint Report No 1208/05](#) by the Chief Executive and the Acting Director of Finance presenting the Annual Accounts of Angus Digital Media Centre Ltd for the financial year ended 31 March 2005.

The Report indicated that the financial statement for the year showed a surplus of £24,418 which was an increase of £19,428 compared with the estimated surplus for the period. The Company's retained reserves stood at £84,534 as at 31 March 2005.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

(b) Financial Performance for the Period Ended 30 June 2005

With reference to Article 34 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 1209/05](#) by the Chief Executive and the Acting Director of Finance outlining the financial performance of Angus Digital Media Centre Ltd for the period 1 April to 30 June 2005, being the first quarter of the current financial year.

The Report indicated that for this period, the financial statement showed a deficit of £21,425, which was a decrease of £1,616 compared with the estimated deficit for the period.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the financial performance of the Company for the period ended 30 June 2005; and
- (ii) to note that the next report presented to the Committee would cover the period ended 30 September 2005.

31. NORTH SEA COMMISSION SEMINAR - TROLLHATTAN, SWEDEN, 26-28 OCTOBER 2005

There was submitted [Report No 1212/05](#) by the Chief Executive seeking homologation for member and officer representation at a North Sea Commission seminar to take place in Trollhattan, Sweden from 26-28 October 2005.

The Report indicated that this seminar aimed to emphasise the role of the North Sea regions in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy and the Gothenburg Agenda, in addition to identifying funding programmes which might support this.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to authorise attendance of Councillor Ritchie and the External Funding Manager of the Economic Development Unit at this seminar to be held in Sweden from 26-28 October 2005.

32. DESTINATION DUNDEE - REQUEST TO ANGUS COUNCIL

There was submitted [Report No 1210/05](#) by the Chief Executive detailing a request from "Destination Dundee" a company limited by guarantee, for the Council to become a member of the company and to nominate a representative to the Board. It had also been asked that a representative be nominated meantime, with the costs and other implications of the Council becoming a member of the company to be clarified prior to a decision on membership being taken.

The Report indicated that there was a need for public and private sector bodies to improve collaboration and effective partnership in tourism initiatives, particularly to shift the focus away from "place marketing" towards "product development and marketing".

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the terms of the formal letter received on 21 September 2005 requesting that the Council becomes a member of the company and nominate a Board representative;
- (iii) to note the objectives and activities of the organisation and the potential benefits for the development of partnership working and for the future development of tourism in the Angus and Dundee areas;
- (iv) to suggest that the name of the organisation be "Destination Dundee and Angus" to reflect the partnership of the two Authorities;
- * (v) to remit to the Council the appointment of the Marketing and Special Projects Manager to the Board of the Company; and
- (vi) to undertake further detailed discussions with the Company on the cost and other implications of the Council becoming a member, to enable a decision to be reached on this aspect.

33. PICTAVIA/PICTISH ARTS SOCIETY LECTURES 2005/2006

With reference to Article 24 of the minute of meeting of the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee of 11 October 2005, there was submitted and noted [Report No 1174/05](#) by the Director of Leisure Services advising members of the continuing partnership with the Pictish Arts Society in producing a fifth series of lectures at Pictavia.

34. 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 the following item 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, paragraphs 6, 8 and 9.

35. SALES OF LAND, ORCHARDBANK BUSINESS PARK, FORFAR

With reference to Article 52 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 June 2003, there was submitted [Report No 1211/05](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to negotiate the sales of two plots of land at Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar.

The Report indicated that, should these proposals be approved, this could precipitate further major developments in the area.

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