

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 24 November 2005 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DAVID SELFRIDGE, KITTY RITCHIE, IAN ANGUS, FRANK ELLIS, JACK GIBB, ALEX KING, IAN MACKINTOSH, STEWART McGLYNN, The Hon R J LESLIE MELVILLE MBE (substituting for ROBERT MYLES), PETER NIELD, RON SCRIMGEOUR and ROBERT SPINK.

Apologies:- Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors JOY MOWATT, ROBERT MYLES and MARK SALMOND.

Councillor SELFRIDGE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Selfridge declared an interest in item 10 as a Council appointee to the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

Councillor Ritchie declared an interest in item 24 as the proposed Council appointee to the East of Scotland European Consortium.

Councillor Gibb declared an interest in item 25 as a Director of the Angus Digital Media Centre.

2. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 October 2005](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Executive Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of 20 October 2005](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

3. 2006/2007 REVENUE BUDGET

With reference to Article 39 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 16 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1353/05](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising the Committee of the latest position with regard to the preparation of the Roads, Planning and Transport and Economic Development 2006/2007 revenue budgets and associated issues. Appended to the Report were summaries of the departmental provision base budgets for 2006/2007 as submitted to, and subsequently reviewed by, the Acting Director of Finance.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report for interest at this stage in the budget process; and
- (ii) to note that more detailed Reports with specific recommendations would be brought forward later in the revenue budget cycle.

4. 2005/2009 FINANCIAL PLAN AND 2006/2007 CAPITAL BUDGET

With reference to Article 38 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 16 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1361/05](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising the Committee of the latest position with regard to the preparation of the 2005/2009 Financial Plan (incorporating the 2006/2007 capital budget) for the Roads,

Economic Development and Planning and Transport departments. Appended to the Report were the departmental Financial Plan submissions for 2005/2009 as returned to the Acting Director of Finance and subsequently reviewed by the Capital Budget Sub-Group.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report for interest at this stage in the Financial Plan process; and
- (ii) to note that more detailed Reports with specific recommendations would be brought forward later in the Financial Plan cycle.

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 October 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1381/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating the Committee on recent and proposed changes to local bus service provision throughout Angus, including Christmas and New Year service arrangements and major changes to Scottish CityLink Services in the area. Details were also given of a Rural Transport Grant award to the Council for 2006/2007 and a grant for public transport capital projects for 2005/2006.

The Report indicated that the local bus service network continued to be monitored and negotiations were regularly ongoing with operators to ensure that service provision met the needs of residents and visitors to the area. The grant funding available to the Council from the Scottish Executive for rural transport provision was to be welcomed. Services funded from this grant were now an integral part of the bus service network and any withdrawal of this funding would have serious implications for the local bus service network. The capital grant offer for public transport projects from the Scottish Executive was also welcomed as this would allow the Council to extend and enhance real time information provision in Angus.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the local bus service revisions outlined in the Report;
- (iii) to note the service changes to be introduced by Scottish CityLink from 28 November 2005 and to authorise investigation and if possible, early implementation of bus/coach interchange provision to serve Forfar and Brechin as detailed in the Report;
- (iv) to note the revised Christmas and New Year local bus service proposals by Strathtay Scottish Limited as detailed in the Report;
- (v) to note and welcome the award of £223,000 Rural Transport Grant funding for 2006/2007 by the Scottish Executive to enhance rural local bus service provision within Angus;
- (vi) to note and welcome the award of £319,000 Capital Grant for public transport projects in 2005/2006 by the Scottish Executive;
- (vii) to approve the use of the Capital Grant for the further extension of real time passenger information in Angus; and
- (vii) to exempt the further extension of real time information in Angus from the tendering process under Section 16.3.4 of Angus Council's Financial Regulations.

6. CONSULTATION ON THE SCOTLAND-WIDE FREE BUS SCHEME FOR OLDER AND DISABLED PERSONS

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 October 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1382/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising the Committee that the Scottish Executive had issued a consultation paper regarding the Scotland-wide Free Bus Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons and outlining the proposals together with a suggested response.

The Report indicated that the introduction of Scotland-wide Free Bus Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons was welcomed. There were, however, concerns over some of the proposed entitlement categories and these were detailed in the suggested response to the Scottish Executive in Appendix 1 to the Report.

Following a full discussion when disappointment and concern was expressed regarding some of the proposed entitlement categories, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the proposals put forward by the Scottish Executive in respect of the Scotland-wide Free Bus Travel Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons;
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Planning and Transport to submit to the Scottish Executive the response to the consultation paper as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (iv) to instruct the Director of Planning and Transport to submit a further Report to the Committee in due course updating the position in the light of progress by the Scottish Executive on this matter.

7. CONSULTATION DRAFT SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY SPP4: MINERAL WORKING

There was submitted [Report No 1411/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport commenting on, and providing the suggested basis for Angus Council's response to the updated draft Guidance on Mineral Working contained in the Consultation Draft Scottish Planning Policy SPP4, which when finalised, would replace the existing NPPG4 Land for Mineral Working.

The Report indicated that the publication of the draft SPP4 had set out the updated national objectives for development of mineral working policy and how this should be implemented through the development plan and development management process. Angus had a varied geological base and had a resultant history of mineral extraction in the county, particularly sand and gravel and hard rock aggregate extraction. This industry was an important part of the Angus rural economy.

The existing development plan policy in Angus already provided a framework for dealing with mineral development and took into account a wide range of environmental and other factors in establishing a sequential policy on location and in terms of assessing specific development proposals. In broad terms, the approach set out on the finalised Angus Local Plan Review was compatible with the emerging draft SPP.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the content of the draft SPP4 setting out national policy on mineral working; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Planning and Transport to use Report No 1411/05 as the basis for Angus Council's response to the Scottish Executive.

8. CONSULTATION PAPER ON PAYING FOR CONNECTIONS TO THE WATER AND SEWERAGE NETWORKS

There was submitted [Report No 1412/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport providing a suggested basis for Angus Council's response to the Scottish Executive consultation paper on proposals and draft Regulations to determine Scottish Water's contribution towards new connections of domestic properties to the public water and sewerage networks.

The Report indicated that the draft regulations sought to clarify Scottish Water's and developers' responsibilities for paying for new water and sewerage infrastructure. Developers would be responsible for paying for the immediate connection from property to where it joined a water main or sewer. Scottish Water would be responsible for meeting all requirements for strategic infrastructure, for example water and wastewater treatment works. Between those

two responsibilities, the Regulations would provide a basis for dividing the costs of new local infrastructure that attempted to reflect the costs and benefits of that infrastructure to both Scottish Water and the developer.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the proposals and draft Regulations set out in the consultation paper "Connecting to the System" which would result in a change to the way Scottish Water contributed to the costs of new connections to its water and sewerage network; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Planning and Transport to use, as the basis for Angus Council's response to the consultation paper, the comments on consultation questions set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.

9. ELECTRONIC SERVICE DELIVERY

There was submitted [Report No 1413/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport setting out the background to E-Planning; a suggested way forward through an Efficient Government Fund bid; and highlighting that the potential financial implications for Angus Council which would require to be considered through the 2006/2007 budget setting process.

The Report indicated that, in June 2003 Scottish Heads of Planning had agreed to work together to progress E-Planning and, to this end, had established an E-Planning compact, the aims of which were to enable people to get involved in planning, increase openness, efficiency and effectiveness and arrange the delivery of planning services to meet citizens needs. An E-Planning Group (a joint forum of local authorities and the Scottish Executive) had been established to co-ordinate and develop advice in E-Planning. The E-Planning Group met regularly to develop expertise, but further development would require investment in new technology (systems and linkages and well as hardware) to release E-Planning benefits. To address this issue, the Scottish Executive's Planning Division had taken the lead in submitting a bid to the Efficient Government Fund for a programme of improvements in E-Planning service delivery. All local authorities, the two national park authorities, the Scottish Executive Enquiry Reporters' Unit and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency were all part of the partnership.

The first stage bid had been successful and the Group were currently developing a business case which would form the basis of the submission at the final stage of bidding in March 2006. While it was an early stage in the bid submission, a successful bid for Efficient Government Funding would require 25% match funding from the local authority. For Angus Council, 25% match funding could require around £60,000 to be identified.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the progress on E-Planning as outlined in the Report and the work being undertaken to secure funding through the Efficient Government Fund.

10. CAIRNGORMS LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN PROJECT OFFICER AND CAIRNGORMS BIODIVERSITY GRANT SCHEME

There was submitted [Report No 1414/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport recommending that Angus Council contribute towards the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan Project Officer post and the Cairngorms Biodiversity Grant Scheme.

The Report indicated that, whilst the Cairngorms National Park covered a relatively small part of Angus, the Cairngorms Biodiversity Action Plan covered the larger former Cairngorms Partnership area. Good progress in implementing the Action Plan was being made and a summary of the progress was attached to the Report as Appendix A. A significant obstacle had been the lack of specific funding to stimulate the development of projects on the ground. The contribution towards the post of the Project Officer to deliver the action phase of the local

Biodiversity Action Plan represented good value for money. The contribution of £1,000 towards the Grant Scheme reflected the relatively small part of Angus covered by the Cairngorms Biodiversity Action Plan but demonstrated Angus Council's commitment to it.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to contribute £2,000 towards the cost of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Project Officer post up to September 2006 and £1,000 towards the Cairngorms Biodiversity Grant Scheme, this expenditure to be met from the Planning and Transport revenue budget for 2005/2006.

11. BRECHIN TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

With reference to Article 21 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2004, there was submitted amended [Report No 1442/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising the Committee of the outcome of the Stage 1 Bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to establish a Townscape Heritage Initiative in the historic centre of Brechin and advising on the next part of the process.

The Report indicated that the successful Stage 1 bid had resulted in the Heritage Lottery Fund making available development funding to assist with the preparation of a detailed project submission. It had considered that the benefits to Brechin of a successful Townscape Heritage Initiative would be significant and it was proposed to progress to the next stage. The funding required for implementation, which would be significant, would be the subject of discussion with potential funding partners and would be considered in due course through the budget process. Copies of the Stage 1 bidding documents had been placed in the Members' Lounge for information.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the Heritage Lottery Funds' provisional award of £1,483,000 of capital funding and the firm offer of up to £25,000 of development funding to establish a Townscape Heritage Initiative in the historic centre of Brechin;
- (iii) to remit to the Director of Planning and Transport, in consultation with the Director of Law and Administration, to accept the offer of development funding and to enter into the required contractual agreements with the Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund; and
- (iv) to remit to the Director of Planning and Transport to commission consultants who would help develop the Stage 2 Bid for Townscape Heritage Initiative capital funding.

12. FINALISED ANGUS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW: PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY - UPDATE

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 September 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1415/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising the Committee on progress with the arrangements for the public local enquiry associated with the Finalised Angus Local Plan Review. It also considered some objections to the Finalised Plan, including proposed modifications, where appropriate, and confirmed that a number of objections had been received to the first round of the draft modifications.

Appendix 1 to the Report detailed proposed responses to outstanding objections to countryside housing policy, wind energy policy, location of employment land in Carnoustie, Letham Grange development strategy, and Woodville policy approach indicating, where appropriate, proposed modifications.

The Report indicated that, in order to ensure that the Council could respond appropriately and timeously to the emerging position on objections that would be considered by the Public Local Inquiry Reporters, it was proposed that issues relating to objections to both the Finalised Angus Local Plan Review and proposed modifications be reported, where appropriate, to the

Infrastructure Services Executive Sub-Committee. It was also proposed that the Director of Planning and Transport be delegated authority to agree further changes to relevant policies or text where this was considered to be in the interest of the Council's position on the Local Plan. Where practicable, any such changes would be reported in the first instance to the Convener of this Committee.

It was noted that all changes proposed to the Finalised Local Plan Review would, in due course, be the subject of future consideration and agreement by the Council as part of the Reporters' Published Report following the Public Local Inquiry. In preparing for the Public Local Inquiry statements of evidence supporting the Council's position were now in the course of preparation which would further address areas of unresolved objection.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the on-going arrangements associated with the Angus Local Plan Review Public Inquiry;
- (iii) to approve the response to objections and certain other outstanding issues as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report, including a third round of proposed draft modifications to the Finalised Local Plan Review;
- (iv) to note that objections had been received to the first round of draft modifications which would also be considered at the Public Local Inquiry;
- (v) to approve the outstanding issues relating to objections to both the Finalised Angus Local Plan Review and proposed modifications being reported, where appropriate, to the Infrastructure Services Executive Sub-Committee;
- (vi) to delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Transport to approve further changes to relevant policies or text, in the period up to, and during, the forthcoming Public Local Inquiry, where this was considered to be in the interests of supporting Angus Council's general position in relevant aspects of the Angus Local Plan Review; and
- (vii) to note that all changes proposed to the Finalised Angus Local Plan Review would be the subject of future consideration and agreement by the Committee as part of the Council's response to the Report as published following the conclusion of the Public Local Inquiry.

13. UTILISATION OF THE ROADS AND TRANSPORT RENEWAL AND REPAIRS FUND FURTHER COMMITMENT FOR 2005/2006

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 18 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1416/05](#) by the Director of Roads proposing further utilisation of the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs Fund in the current financial year.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the resurfacing of the carriageway and footways in Milton Street, Monifieth at an estimated cost of £90,000;
- (iii) to approve street lighting upgrades/renewals to the value of £52,000; and
- (iv) to approve the replacement of the roller shutter doors of the Fishmarket building at Arbroath Harbour at an estimated cost of £12,000.

14. TAYSIDE SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE

With reference to Article 19 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 October 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1417/05](#) by the Director of Roads updating the Committee on the work of the Tayside Safety Camera Partnership.

The Report indicated that the objectives of the Partnership were to reduce the number of personal injury accidents on Tayside roads, to reduce the overall speed of vehicles on targeted Tayside routes and to meet the Government's 2010 targets for casualty reduction, with the overall aim to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Tayside roads.

The Partnership continued to contribute to the Council's corporate priorities of promoting healthy, caring and safe communities and improving the environment and quality of life in Angus. The Partnership also contributed to the Road Safety Action Plan for Angus as approved by this Committee on 13 October 2005 (Report No 1192/05 refers).

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

15. TENDERS ACCEPTED 1 JULY - 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

There was submitted and noted [Report No 1418/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing those tenders which he had accepted on behalf of the Council during the period 1 July to 30 September 2005 in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

16. TRAFFIC SIGNALS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2005/2010

With reference to Article 31 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1419/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing the outcome of the tendering process for the Traffic Signals Maintenance Contract and requesting the extension of the existing legal agreement for Traffic Signal Maintenance between Angus Council, Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the outcome of the tendering process for the Traffic Signals Maintenance Contract 2005-2010 which had resulted in the contract being awarded to Siemens Traffic Controls Limited; and
- (iii) to approve the extension of the existing legal agreement for Traffic Signal Maintenance between Angus Council, Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council.

17. FOTHERINGHAM DRIVE, MONIFIETH AND CHARLES AVENUE, ARBROATH - CARRIAGEWAY AND FOOTWAY WORKS - ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 October 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1420/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing tenders received for carriageway and footway works in Fotheringham Drive, Monifieth and Charles Avenue, Arbroath and recommending acceptance of the lowest tenders submitted.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the acceptance of the lowest tender submitted by Renovo Contractors Limited in the amount of £213,707.65 and Ennstone Thistle Limited in the amount of £314,485.75 for the carriageway and footway works in Fotheringham Drive, Monifieth and Charles Avenue, Arbroath respectively.

18. TRAFFIC ORDERS

(a) Proposed Stopping-Up of Part of the Public Footway, 23 Old Brechin Road, Lunanhead, Forfar

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Development Control Committee of 15 July 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1421/05](#) by the Director of Roads seeking approval to promote a Stopping-Up Order, under Section 68 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, over part of the public footway at Old Brechin Road, Lunanhead, Forfar.

The Report indicated that planning permission had been granted to convert the former store at 23 Old Brechin Road, Lunanhead into a dwellinghouse but the property had no front garden as the public footway extended up to the external frontage of the building.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to authorise the promotion of a Stopping-Up Order in respect of part of the public footway along the frontage of 23 Old Brechin Road, Lunanhead, Forfar.

(b) Temporary Traffic Orders

There was submitted and noted [Report No 1422/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration advising that, at the request of the Director of Roads, eleven Temporary Traffic Orders had been made, as detailed in the Report.

(c) Angus Council (Variation of Waiting Restrictions) Order 2005

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 September 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1423/05](#) by the Director of Law of Administration relating to the making of an Order for the purpose of varying the provisions of current Traffic Orders in respect of waiting restrictions in various locations throughout Angus.

The Report indicated that the effect of the proposed Order was to relieve traffic congestion, protect access, improve visibility at road junctions, ensure the effectiveness of traffic calming measures and to remove current waiting restrictions which were considered to be unnecessarily severe and detailed the objections received and responses given.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the making of the Angus Council (Variation of Waiting Restrictions) Order 2005.

(d) Angus Council (Off-Street Car Parks) (Variation) Order 2005 - Bellies Brae, Kirriemuir and former Roads Depot at Slade Road, Kirriemuir

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1424/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Roads relating to the proposed Order for the purpose of prohibiting HGVs from parking in the car park at Bellies Brae, Kirriemuir and recommending delaying the making of the Order until completion of investigations into alternative proposals to form car, coach and lorry parking utilising the former Roads Depot at Slade Road, Kirriemuir.

The Report indicated that the Bellies Brae car park was not well suited for the parking of HGVs and the former Roads Depot at Slade Road, Kirriemuir offered a suitable alternative location for such parking in the area.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Director of Roads to investigate proposals for the formation of a new car, coach and lorry park at the former Roads Depot at Slade Road, Kirriemuir;
- (ii) to authorise the implementation of any necessary planning procedures for the change of use of the Depot; and
- (iii) to postpone the making of the Order to ban HGV parking at Bellies Brae car park until the investigations by the Director of Roads were completed.

(e) Variation of Speed Limits on A935 Brechin - Montrose Road at Tayock, Montrose

There was submitted [Report No 1425/05](#) by the Director of Roads suggesting proposed alterations to current speed restrictions on the A935 Brechin - Montrose Road at Tayock, Montrose.

The Report indicated that, due to extensive new house building in the area to the north-west of Montrose, it was proposed in the interest of pedestrian and road safety to adjust the existing speed limits on the A935 Brechin - Montrose Road.

The Committee agreed to promote a variation to the current Angus Council (Speed Limits) Order 1999 to effect changes to the speed limit from 60 mph to 40 mph and from 40 mph to 30 mph on sections of the A935 Brechin - Montrose Road at Tayock, Montrose.

(f) Angus Council (Shanwell Road, Carnoustie) (One-Way Traffic) Order 2005

With reference to Article 27(b) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1426/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration relating to the making of an Order to introduce one-way traffic in Shanwell Road, Carnoustie in the interest of pedestrian and traffic safety.

The Committee agreed to approve the making of the Order.

(g) Angus Council (Braehead Road, Letham) (30 mph Speed Limit) Order 2005

With reference to Article 27 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1427/05](#) 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 the interest of pedestrian and traffic safety in the Braehead Road, Letham.

The Committee agreed to approve the making of the Order.

(h) Angus Council (Schools Keep Clear Areas) (Variation) Order 2005

With reference to Article 25 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1428/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration relating to the introduction of an Order to vary the existing Angus Council (Schools Keep Clear Areas) Order 2000 in the interest of pedestrian and traffic safety at three additional school locations being Grange Primary School, Monifieth, Rosemount Primary School, Hillside and Monikie Primary School.

The Committee agreed to approve the making of the Order.

19. HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 13 OCTOBER - 10 NOVEMBER 2005

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 October 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1429/05](#) by the Chief Executive identifying the highlights and achievements of the work within the Economic Development Unit for the period 13 October to 10 November 2005.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

20. DEVELOPING THE WALKING MARKET IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 25 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 November 2004 there was submitted [Joint Report No 1430/05](#) by the Chief Executive and the Director of Planning and Transport reminding members that significant public sector resources were currently being invested in enhancing walking opportunities throughout Angus and seeking support for a partnership approach towards appointing a consultant to assess the opportunities in north Angus for developing walking visitor products which might be marketed to increase market share. Members were also asked to approve a financial contribution towards the 2006 Angus Glens Walking Festival.

The Report indicated that Angus was well placed to capitalise on the growth in outdoor activity holidays, with work already being undertaken to develop the golf and angling markets. It was considered that the developing infrastructure to accommodate walking and other pursuits provided an opportunity to develop destination products in association with public and private sector partners.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the proposal to work in partnership with other public sector agencies to employ a consultant on a part-time, 18 month contract;
- (ii) to confirm a contribution of £6,000 from the Council towards this contract to be met from the Economic Development Revenue Budget over 2006/2007 and 2007/2008;
- (iii) to authorise the Chief Executive to advertise for consultancy bids, subject to confirmation of support from all funding streams;
- (iv) to authorise the Chief Executive to appoint a consultant in consultation with the project partners, the Director of Law and Administration and the Acting Director of Finance;
- (v) to approve a contribution of £2,000 from the Economic Development Revenue Budget over 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 towards the 2006 Angus Glens Walking Festival; and
- (vi) to approve a contribution of £1,500 to the 2006 Walking Festival from the Planning and Transport Revenue Budget, 2005/2006.

21. NEW LEASES, ANGUS COUNCIL BUSINESS PROPERTY

With reference to Article 28 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 September 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1431/05](#) by the Chief Executive recording two new leases concluded by the Chief Executive under delegated powers.

The Committee agreed to note the new leases concluded, as outlined in the Appendix to the Report.

22. PRODUCTION OF BIO DIESEL FROM OILSEED RAPE

With reference to Article 32 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1432/05](#) by the Chief Executive outlining the findings of the study into the production of bio diesel from oilseed rape, following an economic evaluation by the Council and other public bodies in the north and east of Scotland.

The Report indicated that the study provided information to support the development of a bio diesel plant in the north and east of Scotland using locally grown oilseed rape which would support the local agricultural industry by providing it with a stable market and enable the Council and other local authorities to meet their environmental aspirations. It would also reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuel imported from other areas of the world.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Economic Development Manager to continue working with the partnership agencies to raise awareness of the opportunities for bio diesel production.

23. INSHORE FISHERIES GROUP FOR SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND

There was submitted [Report No 1433/05](#) by the Chief Executive advising members that in accordance with the Scottish Executive policy document, it was proposed to establish an Inshore Fisheries Group for South East Scotland from the English Border up to the River North Esk. The membership of the group would comprise commercial fishermen but the Council would be requested to participate in a support group.

The Report indicated that the establishment of an Inshore Fisheries Group for South East Scotland was intended to achieve the undernoted aims:-

- to provide strategic direction for inshore fisheries;
- to put fishermen at the heart of the decision making process; and
- to develop improved co-operation between the Government, the fishing industry and the environment sector.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to support the establishment of a South East Scotland Inshore Fisheries Group; and
- (iii) to instruct submission of a further Report in the event of the Council's financial support being sought for the appointment of a South East Scotland Fisheries Development Co-ordinator to work on behalf of the relevant local authorities.

24. EAST OF SCOTLAND EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM - ANGUS COUNCIL ELECTED MEMBER REPRESENTATION

There was submitted [Report No 1434/05](#) by the Chief Executive proposing that Councillor Gibb be replaced as the Council's elected member representative on the East of Scotland European Consortium by Councillor Ritchie.

The Report indicated that the Council had greatly benefited from membership of the consortium over recent years but, in view of the demands on Councillor Gibb as Education Convener, it was considered appropriate that Councillor Ritchie, as Vice-Convener of this Committee, should replace him on the Consortium.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- * (ii) to approve the appointment of Councillor Ritchie as the Council's representative on the East of Scotland European Consortium in place of Councillor Gibb.

25. ANGUS DIGITAL MEDIA CENTRE - FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

With reference to Article 34 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 1435/05](#) by the Chief Executive and the Acting Director of Finance outlining the financial performance of Angus Digital Media Centre Limited for the period 1 April to 30 September 2005, being the first half of the current financial year.

The Report indicated that the statement showed a deficit of £19,928, which was an increase of £6,445 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 September 2005; and
- (ii) to note that the next Report presented would cover the financial period ending 30 December 2005.

26. PROPOSED UPGRADING WORKS, ARBROATH BUSINESS CENTRE

There was submitted [Report No 1436/05](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to undertake a small programme of upgrading works at Arbroath Business Centre.

The Report indicated that approval of these proposals could encourage an expanding local firm to remain in Arbroath. In addition, the proposed upgrade of the Centre's common areas would benefit all the tenants of Units 1-16 and enhance the future marketability of the facility.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Property Services, to undertake a programme of works at Arbroath Business Centre up to a maximum of £7,000.

27. 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 undernoted 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.

28. LEASE OF UNITS 1, 7 AND 8 ARBROATH BUSINESS CENTRE

There was submitted [Report No 1437/05](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to lease Units 1, 7 and 8 at Arbroath Business Centre to a local company.

The Committee agreed to approve the lease of these units to Point of Care Testing Limited, Arbroath, on the terms and conditions as detailed in the Report.