

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 25 August 2005 at 4.00 pm.

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

Councillor Ritchie declared an interest in item 17 as Chairperson of Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre (which has a partnership arrangement for marketing with Caledonian Railways (Brechin) Ltd).

Councillors Mackintosh and Myles declared an interest in item 22 as practising farmers.

2. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

[The minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 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 7 July 2005](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

3. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 975/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating members of recent changes to local bus services in Angus and also informing of progress in relation to the introduction of the National Free Bus Travel Scheme for elderly and disabled people.

The Report indicated that the local bus service network continued to be kept under review and, where possible, services amended to better meet public demand. Public transport infrastructure was being improved as part of a ten year plan agreed by the Council in its Public Transport Information Strategy and the first of these improvements was now being implemented.

Following a full discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the recent changes to local bus services throughout Angus;
- (ii) to note the additional infrastructure put in place to accommodate the Bus Route Development funded services in Forfar;
- (iii) to note the introduction of new bus stop poles and flags to be introduced throughout Angus; and
- (iv) to note the progress being made in respect of the introduction of the new National Free Bus Travel Concession Scheme from 1 April 2006.

4. LOCAL BUS SERVICES - REVIEW OF CONTRACT PRICES

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 September 2004, there was submitted [Report No 976/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport detailing the basis for calculating the annual review of contract price changes of local bus service contracts and recommending a 3.48% increase for 2005/2006.

The Committee agreed to approve the award of a 3.48% contract price increase for eligible local bus service contracts/agreements with effect from 1 July 2005, as detailed in the Report.

5. CONSTITUTION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 977/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport and the Director of Roads considering and providing suggested comments to the Scottish Executive on the draft Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment and Constitution) (Scotland) Order 2005 which contained various proposals, including boundaries of the new partnerships and the number of Councillor members to be appointed by each local authority.

The Report indicated that one of the main purposes of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 was to establish Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) covering the whole of Scotland. This was a duty on the Scottish Ministers to be carried out by Order and a draft RTP Establishment and Constitution Order, published by the Scottish Executive on 21 July 2005, was attached as Appendix 1 to the Report. The draft Order set the boundaries of the new partnerships, established the number of Councillor members to be appointed to the Partnership by each local authority and the number of votes each of the Councillor members would hold.

The Report concluded that publication of the draft Establishment and Constitution Order was a further significant step in formally constituting a Central Scotland and Tay Regional Transport Partnership. Concerns remained over the proposed representation from constituent Councils on the partnership and the Report reiterated Angus Council's preference for equality of Council members among the constituent Councils with each of the four constituent Councils being represented by two members.

Having heard the Convener and a number of other members express consternation at the Scottish Executive's proposals as detailed in the Report, the Committee unanimously agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the proposals for Regional Transport Partnerships as set out in the draft Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment and Constitution) (Scotland) Order 2005;
- (ii) to advise the Scottish Executive of Angus Council's strong concerns and dismay over the proposed number of Councillor Members to be appointed by each constituent council in the Central Scotland and Tay Transport Partnership, and of Angus Council's insistence on equality of representation with each of the four constituent Councils being represented by two members; and
- * (iii) to nominate the Convener and Vice Convener of this Committee to represent Angus Council on the Partnership and, at this stage, to remit to the Council to make the appointments for both places.

6. WHITE PAPER - MODERNISING THE PLANNING SYSTEM

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005, there was submitted [Report No 978/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport considering and providing suggested comments to the Scottish Executive on the White Paper entitled "Modernising the Planning System" which contained significant proposals for wide ranging changes to the planning service, including the operation of both development planning and development control.

The Report indicated that the White Paper followed a series of earlier consultation documents and policy statements on planning. The Scottish Executive had indicated that this would be the last publication on these matters before the introduction of a Planning Bill to implement those proposals which required legislative change during the current Parliamentary Session. The White Paper set out a radical package of proposed measures aimed at making the planning system:-

- fit for purpose - able to respond to different types of development proposals in the most appropriate way
- more efficient - in development plan preparation and determination of planning applications
- more inclusive - making it easier for people to get involved in planning
- sustainable - recognising planning's role in delivering sustainable development

A copy of the full White Paper had been placed in the Members' Lounge and a copy of the Executive Summary was attached as Appendix 1 to the Report. The broad content of the proposed Planning Bill, together with suggested comments on behalf of the Council, was summarised in Part 4 of the Report.

The Report concluded that many aspects of the White Paper on Modernising the Planning System were to be generally welcomed, not least the recognition of the vital role in which land use planning played in ensuring that development was encouraged and managed in a sustainable way. The proposals signalled in the White Paper, which would be taken forward in the forthcoming Planning Bill, would have significant implications for the future manner in which development planning and development control was undertaken and delivered in Angus. A key challenge would therefore be to implement such a major package of changes to the planning system in a way which minimised difficulties and maintained and built on the good performance measures already achieved by Angus Council.

Having heard from a number of members on the significance of the proposed changes, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the wide ranging and far reaching proposals on new arrangements for land use planning as set out in the White Paper on Modernising the Planning System;
- (ii) to approve the Report, including detailed comments on changes to Development Planning and Development Management set out in Section 4, as the basis for the Council's response to the Scottish Executive on the practical implications of key proposals in the White Paper which would be taken forward in the Planning Bill; and
- * (iii) to remit to the Council to reconstitute the Joint Structure Plan Panel elected member representation from Angus pending future formal procedures for constituting the Strategic Development Planning Authority.

7. TENDERS ACCEPTED - 1 APRIL 2005 - 30 JUNE 2005

There was submitted and noted [Report No 980/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing those tenders which he had accepted on behalf of the Council during the period 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

8. ROADS DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2005/2006 AND PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR 2004/2005

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 981/05](#) by the Director of Roads informing the Committee of the progress made by the Roads Department in terms of improved performance monitoring arrangements put in place following the Best Value Audit 2004 and detailing performance results for 2004/2005.

The Report gave details of future performance monitoring systems being implemented within the Roads Department and further detailed summary outputs of existing performance monitoring measures.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the revised Balanced Scorecard for the Roads Department; and
- (iii) to note the performance monitoring information provided in the Report.

9. A92 ARBROATH - MONTROSE ROUTE ACTION PLAN / A935 MONTROSE - BRECHIN ROUTE ACTION PLAN / A935/A90(T) LINK ROAD AT BRECHIN

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2005, there was submitted [Report No 982/05](#) by the Director of Roads describing the current status of the three projects named above and outlining the programme for their delivery, together with the current financial provision for each of them as contained within the Council's capital budget 2005/2006.

The Report indicated that, at the same time as deciding to proceed with the upgrading of the A92 (Arbroath - Dundee) and to procure the replacement of the Montrose Bridge, the Council had been aware of the limitations associated with the A935 Montrose - Brechin and the A92 northwards from Arbroath to Montrose and beyond towards Stonehaven. However, the priorities were considered to lie with the former projects. Now that the A92 upgrading project and the Montrose Bridge replacement were nearing completion of the construction phases, the expected benefits, particularly in terms of improved safety and economic development potential, would soon be realised. It was therefore now appropriate to turn specific attention to the next three major road projects identified as priorities for the Council, viz:-

- A92 Arbroath-Montrose, Route Action Plan
- A935 Montrose-Brechin, Route Action Plan
- A935/A90T link at Brechin

The Report noted that the programmes for the progression of the three projects could proceed in parallel with each other once the staff currently engaged in the A92 project and the Montrose Bridge replacement were released from their commitments to those projects. The timescales for progression were provisionally as reflected in the expenditure profiles set out in the Council's current financial plan and as further described in the financial implications section of the Report.

Having heard from various members on the contents of the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the current status of the three projects;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Roads to proceed with the projects on the basis described in the Report;
- (iii) to note the current financial provision for the projects set out in the Council's current financial plan provision 2005/2006; and
- (iv) to note the staff resource implications for the Roads Department associated with the projects, in combination with the forthcoming completion of the new works associated with the A92 Upgrading (Arbroath-Dundee) Project and the Montrose Bridge replacement.

10. SCOTTISH ROAD MAINTENANCE CONDITION SURVEY (SRMCS) 2004/2005

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 983/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing the national results of the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) carried out in 2004/2005 and the ongoing work with respect to quantifying the road maintenance backlog.

The Report indicated that the national results for each Council were now available and were shown in Appendix 2 to the Report. Angus Council's overall Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI) placed the Council as sixth best in Scotland, as compared with fourth in 2003/2004. Angus was also classified by the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) as "rural" and was third out of the eight rural Councils (Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll and Bute, Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Highland, Moray and Perth & Kinross).

The Report concluded that, although the SRMCS for 2004/2005 had indicated that Angus Council's road network was the sixth best in Scotland, there remained a substantial backlog of road maintenance and repairs required, with annual estimated funding of £7.7million required to prevent the backlog from increasing.

Having heard various members on the need to secure sufficient resources for road maintenance, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the results of the 2004/2005 SRMCS and Angus Council's position as sixth best in Scotland;
- (ii) to note the ongoing work through the Society of Chief Officers for Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) to develop further the SRMCS as well as work to calculate the backlog of road maintenance nationally; and
- (iii) to note the ongoing annual funding requirement to maintain Angus Council's road network economically.

11. BRECHIN FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME - EARLY CONTRACTOR INVOLVEMENT

There was submitted [Report No 984/05](#) by the Director of Roads outlining the contract options which had been considered for the procurement of the Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme and recommending the New Engineering Contract (NEC) target form of contract, with early contractor involvement in the development of this specialist nature scheme, prior to the construction phase.

The Report indicated that the specialist nature of the Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme was well suited to having early contractor involvement and whilst this was a new approach for the Council, which had some risks attached, it was considered that these risks were outweighed by the many potential benefits which could accrue. The Council's exposure to these risks could also be managed by the approach to risk allocation which the Council would adopt.

The Report concluded that, in order to capture the benefits of enhanced practical and financial consideration of scheme proposals, a reduction in the overall timescale for the project and increased accuracy of cost estimates and risk allowances, it was proposed to procure the Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme using an early contractor involvement/target form of contract.

Having heard Councillor Mowatt welcome the Report, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contract options which had been considered for the Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme and the expected benefits and risks associated with the NEC target form of contract with early contractor involvement; and
- (ii) to approve the procurement of the Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme using the NEC target form of contract with early contractor involvement in the development of the scheme prior to the construction phase.

12. ADDITIONS TO THE STANDING LISTS OF CONTRACTORS FOR CONSTRUCTION, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS UNDER £200,000

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2005, there was submitted [Report No 985/05](#) by the Director of Roads recommending approval of contractors for various categories of work up to a maximum value of £200,000, who had initially been excluded from the current Standing Lists as a result of information/clarification being sought or who did not submit their application in time for consideration at the meeting of the Committee on 25 November 2004. This would increase the number of contractors on the Standing List, provide more scope for competitive tendering and would therefore provide better value for money from future works contracts.

The Committee agreed to approve the contractors listed in Appendix 1 for inclusion on the Standing Lists of Contractors for various categories of work up to a maximum contract value of £200,000 in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

13. TRANSPORT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 986/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing some of the changes which would be introduced under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 to the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 and highlighting the potential resource implications for local roads authorities.

The Report indicated that the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005, which had received Royal Assent on 5 August 2005, would allow a number of measures designed to grow Scotland's economy. These new measures would enable:-

- action to tackle poor roadworks, with a new Scottish Road Works Commissioner and stiffer penalties for delays and low quality resurfacing
- a new national transport agency to run national free concessionary travel schemes, particularly the Scotland-wide free bus scheme for older and disabled people
- the creation of new Regional Transport Partnerships covering all of Scotland (see Article 5 above)
- the establishment of a public transport users' committee for Scotland

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

*** 14. WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION FOR 2005/2006**

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 September 2004, there was submitted [Report No 987/05](#) by the Director of Roads restating the Council's Winter Maintenance Policy, reviewing the performance for the winter of 2004/2005 and detailing the proposed service provision for gritting and snow clearing during the winter period 2005/2006.

The Report indicated that the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 placed a duty on local roads authorities to take such steps as they considered reasonable to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles over public roads. It was therefore incumbent on the Council to determine the measures which it deemed appropriate for winter maintenance on its public roads, taking into account its overall priorities and available resources.

Notwithstanding the difficulty in predicting the severity of the winter, it was necessary to have a clear policy and an agreed level of service to allow the planning and preparation necessary for the delivery of a winter maintenance service to proceed. If, during the course of the winter, abnormal or particularly extreme weather conditions were experienced, the Director of Roads, in conjunction with the Acting Director of Finance, would report the position to this Committee and would recommend appropriate contingency arrangements and any necessary compensatory budget adjustments.

The Report concluded that the proposed Winter Maintenance arrangements for 2005/2006 would continue to provide value for money and a targeted level of service.

COUNCILLOR SELFRIDGE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR RITCHIE, MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE AGREE THE RECOMMENDATIONS, AS DETAILED IN THE REPORT.

Councillor Mackintosh, seconded by Councillor Myles, moved as an amendment that:-

- (i) the Committee does not continue with the established policy for Winter Maintenance as stated in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) the Director of Roads be instructed to look at the service provided on the auxiliary routes and bring back a report to this Committee on the full cost implications of gritting these routes at weekends and the provision of grit bins and roadside grit heaps on unadopted roads.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Selfridge, Ritchie, Ellis, Gaul, Gibb, King, McGlynn, Mowatt, Nield, Salmond, Scrimgeour and Spink (12).

For the amendment:-

Councillors Mackintosh and Myles (2).

The motion was declared carried and the Committee agreed accordingly.

15. A92 DUALLING - SURPLUS LAND AT NORTH GRANGE MONIFIETH

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item.

16. PROPOSED LEASE OF FORMER ROADS DEPOT AT SLADE ROAD, KIRRIEMUIR

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item.

17. CALEDONIAN RAILWAYS - MAINTENANCE LIABILITIES

There was submitted [Joint Report No 989/05](#) by the Director of Roads and the Chief Executive proposing a solution to a problem concerning the maintenance and repair of three road-over-rail bridges on the Caledonian Railway Line between Brechin and Bridge of Dun.

The Report indicated that the railway was owned by the Council but the subjects were leased in their entirety to Caledonian Railway (Brechin) Ltd and, as part of the lease, the company was obliged to maintain and repair the associated structures. However, the company had advised that it did not have the resources to fulfil this obligation for the three major structures, which carried public roads over the railway line and it was proposed to relieve the company of this obligation for these structures and amend the lease accordingly. It was further proposed to examine options for the long-term future of the bridges and report on these to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Report concluded that the Caledonian Railway was an important visitor attraction and had the potential to play an even more important role within the local tourism section.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that the terms of the lease granted to the Caledonian Railway (Brechin) Ltd be amended to relieve them of their obligations to maintain three bridges carrying local roads over the private railway;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Roads, in conjunction with the Economic Development Manager, to undertake studies to determine the best options for the future of the bridges; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Roads, the Economic Development Manager and the Acting Director of Finance to bring forward a further report in due course on the funding implications and options for the long-term future maintenance of the three bridges.

18. VARIOUS TRAFFIC ORDERS

(a) Traffic Orders

With reference to Article 16(d) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005, there was submitted [Report No 990/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration relating to Traffic Regulation Orders required for the A92 Dundee - Arbroath Upgrading Project which had been recommended by the Director of Roads.

The Committee agreed to approve the making of the following Orders:-

- (i) Angus Council (Travebank Road, Barry) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2005;

- (ii) Angus Council (Speed Limits) (Variation) (No. 2) Order 2005;
- (iii) Angus Council (A92 Dundee - Arbroath Road Side Roads) (Prohibition of Entry) Order 2005; and
- (iv) Angus Council (A92 Dundee - Arbroath Road) (Dual Carriageway) (One-Way Traffic) Order 2005.

(b) Temporary Traffic Orders

There was submitted and noted [Report No 991/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration advising that, at the request of the Director of Roads, six Temporary Traffic Orders had been made, as detailed in the Report.

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

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item.

(d) Stopping-Up of Footpath at Montrose Academy

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 11 August 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 856/05](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Roads seeking Committee approval to make and confirm a Stopping-Up Order under Section 68 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to stop up a length of footpath at Montrose Academy.

The Report indicated that, following the procedure prescribed by Section 60 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, statutory notices had been served on the appropriate parties and site notices placed on the footpath. The proposal had been advertised in the Courier and Advertiser and the Edinburgh Gazette resulting in no objections or representations being received.

The Committee agreed to approve the making and confirmation of the Angus Council (Palmerston Street, former West Footway, Montrose) (Stopping-Up) Order 2005.

19. UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

With reference to Article 28 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted Report No 993/05 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 June 2005.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

20. HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 9 JUNE - 25 AUGUST 2005

With reference to Article 29 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 994/05](#) by the Chief Executive identifying the highlights and achievements of the work within the Economic Development Unit for the period 9 June -25 August 2005.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

21. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT: REPORT ON PERFORMANCE 2004/2005

With reference to Article 21 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 September 2004, there was submitted [Report No 995/05](#) by the Chief Executive summarising the 2004/2005 outcomes for each of the performance indicators agreed by the Committee for the Economic Development Unit. It was noted that the Unit had been involved in a wide range of activity over 2004/2005 and that this was reflected in the Report on Performance, attached as Appendix I.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of Appendix I to the Report which provided an indication of performance of the Economic Development Unit of the Chief Executive's Department against adopted indicators for 2004/2005.

22. EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (EARDF)

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 November 2004, there was submitted [Report No 996/05](#) by the Chief Executive setting out details of the recently agreed EU agreement on Rural Development Funds for the period 2007-2013.

The Report indicated that, on 20 June 2005, the EU Agriculture Ministers had concluded new rules for Rural Development policy for the period 2007-2013. The new European Agricultural Rural Development Fund (EARDF) would reduce the current number of programmes, bringing the grants available under one framework. The reduction of programmes was intended to make the EARDF simpler than the previous funding programmes and it was claimed that one of the main features of the fund was that regions and local action groups would have more say in attuning programmes to local need.

The Report concluded that the precise detail of the new programmes continued to be monitored by council officials and that the Committee would be updated on the situation when the details had been finalised.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

23. REPORT ON THE TRADE MISSION TO ESTONIA AND LATVIA

With reference to Article 21 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005, there was submitted [Report No 997/05](#) by the Chief Executive summarising the findings of the Angus Council organised trade mission to Estonia and Latvia, 23-29 May 2005 and seeking approval to follow the recommended actions.

The Report indicated that, as identified within the 2004-2007 Service Plan, the Economic Development Unit had investigated the potential for developing trade partnerships in Eastern Europe. As a result of the positive research undertaken, it had authorised a highly successful trade mission to Estonia and Latvia with positive outcomes in terms of immediate and future sales, as well as potential business propositions. It was proposed that the Economic Development Manager should continue to promote the business opportunities available in the Baltic States to Angus companies.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the mission report, as attached, and the successful outcome of the trade mission;
- (ii) to authorise the Economic Development Manager to further encourage Angus companies to look at business opportunities in the Baltic States; and
- (iii) to approve a business networking event to welcome an inward mission of Estonian officials and businessmen visiting Angus on Thursday 3 November 2005.

24. EUROPEAN COMMISSION - COHESION POLICY IN SUPPORT OF GROWTH AND JOBS: COMMUNITY STRATEGIC GUIDELINES 2007-2013

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 November 2004, there was submitted [Report No 998/05](#) by the Chief Executive informing the Committee of the recently published draft Community Strategic Guidelines for the period 2007-2013.

The Report indicated that, as a first step in launching discussions on the priorities for the new generation of Cohesion Policy Programmes, the European Commission had published draft EU Strategic Guidelines for 2007/2013. These Guidelines, entitled "Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs", would set the strategic framework for future Structural Fund Programmes. They would form the basis for preparing National Strategic Reference Frameworks which would outline the national implementation of the Structural Funds and the resulting Operational Programmes in each member state of the European Union. Consultation on the draft guidelines was now underway and would run until 30 September 2005.

The Report concluded that, as the results of the consultation on the draft Community Strategic Guidelines would help form the future Structural Fund Programmes for Scotland, council officers would continue to monitor developments, input to negotiations and keep the Committee informed of developments.

The Committee agreed to note the details of the draft Guidelines which would form the framework for future Structural Fund Programmes.

25. EUROPEAN COMMISSION - DRAFT GUIDELINES ON NATIONAL REGIONAL AID FOR 2007-2013

There was submitted [Report No 999/05](#) by the Chief Executive informing the Committee of the draft Guidelines on National Regional Aid for 2007-2013 and the implications for Angus.

The Report indicated that National Regional Aid was designed to assist the development of the most disadvantaged regions in the European Union by supporting investment and job creation in a sustainable context. It promoted expansion, modernisation and diversification of the economic activities of enterprises located in the less favoured regions and encouraged firms to set up new businesses there. Political and economic developments since 1998, including enlargement of the European Union on 1 May 2004, the anticipated accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 1 January 2007 and the accelerated process of integration (following the introduction of the single currency), had created the need for a comprehensive review in order to prepare new guidelines which would apply from 2007-2013.

The Report concluded that the current position for the UK was that only Cornwall and West Wales and the Valleys would be eligible under Article 87(3)(a) and only Highlands and Islands would qualify under "statistical effect". Angus might only qualify if it was designated as an area of not less than 20,000 population and work would therefore be undertaken by council officers to identify the relevant socio-economic data and establish whether a case could be made for any of Angus qualifying.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the new draft Guidelines for National Regional Aid for 2007-2013; and
- (ii) to authorise the Chief Executive to make representation to the Scottish Executive if statistics suggested that a reasonable case could be made for inclusion of part of Angus under Article 87(3)(c).

26. MONTROSE ECONOMIC STUDY

With reference to Article 21 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1000/05](#) by the Chief Executive advising on the impact of the forthcoming closures of the GlaxoSmithKline plant and Sunnyside Hospital and the opportunities associated with redevelopment of both sites and the potential for linked development opportunities/threats at Montrose Harbour, all of which would have a significant impact on the economy of Montrose and its hinterland. It was also recommended that the Council contribute to the commissioning of a study jointly with Scottish Enterprise Tayside to baseline the economy of Montrose, to undertake a labour market analysis, determine likely economic impact and consider options to mitigate these impacts.

Having heard the Convener on the contents of the addendum to the Report, which advised that GlaxoSmithKline wished to extend the study and would contribute one-third (£30,000) of the anticipated revised cost (up to £90,000) of the overall study, the Committee agreed to contribute up to £30,000 towards the cost of an economic assessment and impact analysis for Montrose to be commissioned by Scottish Enterprise Tayside, as detailed in the Report.

27. TALKING TAYSIDE (CONTACT CENTRE FORUM) ANNUAL AWARDS - REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 August 2003, there was submitted [Report No 1001/05](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to sponsor an award at the Talking Tayside Annual Awards.

The Report indicated that, initiated in December 2000, the Tayside Contact Centre Forum "Talking Tayside" was a public/private partnership forum to promote and develop the Contact Centre industry in Tayside. The sector had an estimated workforce of 4,000 people and continued to grow and current employment figures indicated that approximately 5,500 people were now employed in the sector across Tayside.

The Report noted that, in previous years, the Economic Development Unit had contributed £2,500 towards its forum membership fee and sponsorship at the Annual Awards Dinner. The general operating budget for the forum was in excess of £25,000, with additional revenue from the annual awards sponsorship. Due to current financial constraints, the Unit was proposing to reduce its financial contribution for this financial year (2005/2006), to cover the cost of sponsorship at the Annual Awards Dinner. This would include Council representation at the event and continued support for the forum in terms of in-kind contributions.

The Committee agreed to approve the budget of £1,500 to cover sponsorship and associated costs at the annual Talking Tayside Awards from the Economic Development Revenue Budget 2005/2006.

28. NEW LEASES, ANGUS COUNCIL BUSINESS PROPERTY

With reference to Article 30 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1002/05](#) by the Chief Executive recording new leases concluded by the Chief Executive under delegated powers.

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

29. REFURBISHMENT OF UNITS 2 AND 3 BROOMFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MONTROSE

With reference to Article 23 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 October 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1003/05](#) by the Chief Executive updating the Committee on projected expenditure on the asbestos removal and re-insulation works underway at Units 2 and 3 Broomfield Industrial Estate, Montrose.

The Report indicated that, at approximately £136,000, the total cost of the physical works was likely to be around £16,000 less than the estimate reported to Committee in October 2004. However, with the expenses incurred by the tenant likely to reach around £21,000, a net overspend of approximately £5,000 was anticipated. This would be contained within the overall Economic Development Capital Budget.

The Committee agreed to note the current projected expenditure on the project, as detailed in the Report.

30. 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 item 31 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, paragraphs 6 and 9.

31. LEASE OF UNIT 4, BROOMFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MONTROSE

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Economic Development Committee of 22 August 2002, there was submitted [Report No 1005/05](#) by the Chief Executive seeking authorisation to lease Unit 4, Broomfield Industrial Estate, Montrose.

The Committee agreed to authorise the lease of Unit 4, Broomfield Industrial Estate, Montrose as detailed in the Report.