

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 28 April 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, PETER NIELD, MARK SALMOND, RON SCRIMGEOUR and RICHARD SPEIRS.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor ROBERT SPINK.

Councillor SELFRIDGE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ritchie declared an interest in item 32 as a Director of Business Gateway Angus.

Councillor Angus declared an interest in item 20 as a close relative lived near to the site referred to in the Report and would benefit from the works to be undertaken.

Councillor Mackintosh declared an interest in item 11 as a member of the Glenisla Business Group and item 12 as a member of the Angus Local Access Forum.

Councillor Mowatt declared an interest in item 28 as Convener of Camerata Angus and item 33 as a member of the Pictish Arts Society and a Pictavia volunteer.

Councillor Myles declared an interest in item 31 as a Director of the Glenesk Trust.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

3. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005, there was submitted [Report No 511/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating members of proposed changes to local bus services within Angus, including future improvements to the Forfar Town Service utilising bus route development grant funding awarded to Angus Council; requesting that the Committee agree to the costs which should be met in order to maintain local bus service provision during roadworks; and advising of changes to the charges made by the Post Office in respect of concessionary travel pass issue. The Report also summarised progress on consideration of the Transport (Scotland) Bill by the Scottish Parliament.

The Report indicated that the local bus service network continued to be kept under review and where possible, new services were put on to meet public requests and alternative provision made in respect of roadworks. Opportunities continued to be sought to secure external funding, such as the recent bus route development grant bids and the award of funding towards improvements in the Forfar Town Service provision was to be welcomed. Progress on major proposals for the introduction of Regional Transport Partnerships would continue to be the subject of discussion by the relevant Member/Officer Group alongside further reports to the Committee at appropriate stages.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the introduction of a local bus service between Forfar and Foresterseat on a trial basis;
- (ii) to approve the extension of J P Minicoaches, Bogindollo to Brechin contract to serve Banks of Brechin;

- (iii) to note the decision by Post Bus to deregister the Kirriemuir to Glen Prosen service;
- (iv) to note progress on the utilisation of £306,000 Bus Route Development Grant funding over the next 3 years towards Forfar Town Local Bus service improvements;
- (v) to approve the payments proposed to be made to operators in respect of additional costs incurred in respect of roadworks;
- (vi) to note the increase in costs in respect of concessionary travel pass issue by the Post Office from 1 April 2005;
- (vii) to note progress on consideration of the Transport (Scotland) Bill by the Scottish Parliament, including further details and amendments governing the future establishment, powers, and operation of Regional Transport Partnerships; and
- (viii) to seek amendments to the Transport (Scotland) Bill to provide for equality of representation of Councillors among constituent Councils of the Regional Transport Partnerships and, in particular, the Central Scotland and Tay Regional Transport Partnership.

4. ANGUS COUNCIL - PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION STRATEGY

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 512/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport seeking members' approval of a Public Transport Information Strategy for Angus.

The Report indicated that the preparation of Angus Council's Public Transport Information Strategy had been rigorous and had included benchmarking with other local authorities, looking at good practice in the UK and Europe and extensive consultation with the users and transport providers. The exercise had shown that Angus Council already had in place extensive, high quality public transport information provision; this was recognised by the public in their high levels of customer satisfaction identified as part of the preparation of the Strategy. Innovative information provision, such as the visual mapping provided for people with learning difficulties, was unique in Scotland and the proposals in the Public Transport Information Strategy sought to build upon the good work already done.

The Report concluded by asking the Committee to approve the Public Transport Information Strategy for implementation by Angus Council in partnership with the transport operators in the area.

Having heard Councillor Scrimgeour welcome the Report, the Committee agreed to approve the proposed Public Transport Information Strategy for Angus as detailed in the Report.

5. ANGUS RAIL INTERCHANGE PROJECT - UPDATE

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 513/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating members on progress on the various elements of the Angus Rail Interchange Project.

The Report indicated that the implementation of the Angus Rail Interchange Project had been particularly difficult and that from the outset it had been recognised that considerable reliance had to be placed on Railtrack/Network Rail and the train operating company (ScotRail) to directly manage and implement the various aspects of the project. The process of administration in relation to Railtrack added to the difficulties and the renewal of the ScotRail franchise had also been a complicating factor. The need to acquire land in the ownership of Network Rail and the private sector had also resulted in difficulties.

The Report concluded that, notwithstanding difficulties, the success in attracting the funding package had resulted in improvements at Carnoustie, Montrose and Arbroath Stations, with further improvements at Arbroath programmed for later in the year. The Montrose Station footbridge/lift would continue to be progressed to the stage where there was a firm design,

costs and construction timetable, and there were positive indications that the project would progress to implementation, possibly in 2006. Negotiations would continue with Network Rail with a view to securing the land needed for the implementation of the remaining elements of the Carnoustie Project, including the public toilets.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made to date on the Angus Rail Interchange Project, including works completed and works currently programmed at Carnoustie, Arbroath and Montrose Rail Stations; and
- (ii) to note the current position on outstanding issues, particularly car parking and toilet facilities on the former goods yard at Carnoustie, car parking adjacent to Arbroath Station and disabled access arrangements at Montrose Rail Station.

6. 'RAILWAYS FOR ALL' CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

There was submitted [Report No 514/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport commenting on, and providing the suggested response to, some key issues identified in the consultation document 'Railways for All', published by the Strategic Rail Authority.

The Report indicated that the consultation document contained an extensive discussion of issues and proposals for a range of improvements to provide rail services and facilities that were more accessible and easier for disabled people to use. An important part of the proposed strategy in the document concerned how to target the national Access for All fund.

The Report concluded that the Council should express a preference for Option B, as outlined in the document, as this aimed to ensure a good geographical spread of fully accessible stations across the network, rather than the Strategic Rail Authority's preferred Option C, which targeted the majority of the fund at the highest usage stations.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to approve the contents of the Report as the Council's response to the 'Railways for All' consultation document, highlighting:-

- (i) the Council's concern over the apparent absence of any accessibility improvements to rail stations in Angus proposed through the Strategic Rail Authority's preferred option for using the Access for All fund; and
- (ii) the Council's preference for Option B to target all of the Access for All fund to ensure a good geographical spread of fully accessible stations across the network.

7. LOCAL BUS SERVICE - RESULTS OF TENDER

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005, there was submitted [Report No 515/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport informing members of the request by an operator to withdraw from a contract which members had already agreed should be awarded.

The Report indicated that Travel Dundee, who had been awarded contract A165 operating between Downfield, Bridgefoot and Auchterhouse, had intimated that they had made a significant error in their tender submission for the service. The tender price they had submitted was £68 per day with the correct figure they should have submitted being £268 per day. On this basis, they were seeking to withdraw their bid and members were therefore asked to agree the tender bid withdrawal and to award the contract to the next lowest tenderer.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the request by Travel Dundee to withdraw their tender bid for Contract A165 operating between Downfield, Bridgefoot and Auchterhouse; and
- (ii) to the award of Contract A165 to Strathtay Scottish Ltd.

8. LOCAL BUS SERVICES - BEST VALUE CONTRACTS

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 January 2004, there was submitted [Joint Report No 523/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport and the

Director of Education detailing school conveyance contracts due for renewal in the Brechin area which were closely integrated with local bus service provision between Forfar and Brechin (Service 21) and Montrose-Brechin-Stracathro-Edzell (Service 30). The local bus service implications of the loss of commercial journeys and replacement contract proposals were also considered.

The Report indicated that the provision of services designed on an integrated basis to meet the needs of scholars and adult passengers was the most cost-effective to the Council. The provision of journeys on a "best value" basis for Service 21 was designed to alleviate major ticketing issues and financial penalties for passengers and the Committee was recommended to award Service 21 journeys on that basis.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to approve the award of a "best value" contract by the application of Financial Regulation 16.5 to Strathtay Scottish Ltd for the continuation of Service 21 journeys as detailed in the Report; and
- (ii) to note that tenders were currently being sought for the provision of journeys on Service 30 as detailed in the Report.

9. TENDER FOR THE CLEANING OF BUS SHELTERS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION DISPLAYS

There was submitted [Report No 516/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport informing members of the outcome of a recent tendering exercise in respect of the cleaning of bus shelters and public transport information displays throughout Angus.

The Report indicated that fourteen "expressions of interest" had been submitted in respect of the contract, with nine tender bids had been received and the results of the tendering exercise contained in Appendix I to the Report. The lowest tender received was from the current contractor, Webster Cleaning Contracts who had provided excellent service in recent years in respect of infrastructure cleaning and it was recommended that the contract be awarded to this contractor.

The Committee agreed to the award of the contract to Webster Cleaning Contracts, as detailed in the Report.

10. FINALISED ANGUS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - UPDATE ON OBJECTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2005, there was submitted [Report No 517/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport summarising progress on the deposit stage of the Angus Local Plan Review, outlining formal objections received on the Finalised Plan and indicating the starting point for undertaking further discussions and negotiations with relevant objectors, drafting possible modifications where appropriate and preparing for a Public Local Inquiry.

The Report indicated that the Finalised Angus Local Plan Review had attracted a significant number of objections across a range of topics and areas during the deposit period. Objections, which were not withdrawn, would need to be addressed via a Public Local Inquiry and arrangements were continuing to be progressed for holding an Inquiry later in the year.

The Report concluded that, in advance of an Inquiry, it might be possible to resolve some objections and that this would be actively pursued with progress, including any draft proposed modifications to the Finalised Local Plan, being reported to subsequent meetings of this Committee.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the number, spread and broad substance of objections lodged on the Finalised Angus Local Plan Review and to accept those late objections received up to 20 April 2005;
- (ii) to note that, in accordance with Scottish Executive advice on best practice and in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2002, copies of objections were available for public inspection;
- (iii) to approve that, in order to encourage and facilitate the withdrawal of objections where possible, the Director of Planning and Transport:-
 - (a) should continue to discuss and negotiate potential mutually acceptable amendments with relevant objectors;
 - (b) should assess possible changes and areas for clarification arising from objections and other comments received in relation to the Finalised Local Plan;
 - (c) should report any proposed draft modifications arising from (a) and (b) above for consideration and agreement by members at appropriate future meetings of the Committee, including any matters arising from the Sub-Committee established to consider issues with Scottish Water at Kirriemuir;
- (iv) that arrangements continue to be progressed for holding a Public Local Inquiry into objections received and not withdrawn, including preparation of the Council's evidence, taking particular account of:-
 - (a) the context outlined in Report 517/05 and the outcome of (iii) above;
 - (b) further technical work as necessary in support of relevant elements of the Plan;
- (v) that arrangements be made for the appointment of a Programme Officer on a part-time temporary basis to assist in organising and managing procedures leading up to and during the Public Local Inquiry.

11. RURAL SHOP AND COMMUNITY POST OFFICE CONVERSION GRANT SCHEME - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT THE POST OFFICE AND SHOP, KIRKTON OF GLENISLA

There was submitted [Report No 518/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising the Committee that the proprietor of Kirkton of Glenisla Post Office and Shop had applied for grant assistance to undertake further improvements to his premises. The Report indicated that the facility was the only provision within a relatively isolated community and served a function well beyond the provision of goods.

The Committee agreed to offer a grant of 90% of the cost of the improvements to the Post Office and Shop at Kirkton of Glenisla up to the maximum grant of £3,000 under the Rural Shops and Community Post Office Conversion Grants Scheme.

12. LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 November 2004, there was submitted [Report No 519/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating the Committee on progress with the setting up of a Local Access Forum and recommending those who should be appointed as members of the Forum.

The Report indicated that the Council had a duty under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 to establish a Local Access Forum and listed those recommended for appointment.

The Committee agreed that those individuals identified in the Report be appointed as members of the Local Access Forum.

13. **ANGUS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST - ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

With reference to Article 25 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004, there was submitted [Report No 520/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising the Committee of the Annual Newsletter and Audited Accounts which had been received from Angus Environmental Trust in respect of the year to September 2004. The priorities adopted by the Trust were consistent with the Council's key themes and corporate priorities.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Angus Environmental Trust Annual Report and Audited Accounts.

14. **LANDFILL TAX MONIES FOR TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP**

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 October 2003, there was submitted [Report No 521/05](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising the Committee that the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership (TBP) had been offered landfill tax monies of £100,000 per annum for three years if 10.2% of matched funding could be raised and proposing that Angus Council make a contribution to assist the TBP in accessing the money.

The Report indicated that the SITA (Société Industrielle de Transports Automobiles) Environmental Trust was offering the TBP a total of £300,000 of landfill tax monies if the Partnership could raise £30,600 match funding. The money would go towards biodiversity projects across Tayside with the funding, as far as possible, being split equally across the three local authority areas of Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross. Angus Council had been asked to contribute to the matched funding and it was proposed that up to a maximum one third share, equalling £3,400, be offered per year for three years 2005/2006 to 2007/2008.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that SITA Environmental Trust had offered Tayside Biodiversity Partnership £100,000 of landfill tax credits per annum for three years if TBP could provide £10,200 (10.2%) match funding per annum; and
- (ii) to pay up to a maximum one third share of the 10.2% match funding per annum for three years.

15. **RESERVOIRS ACT 1975 - BIENNIAL REPORT**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Roads Committee of 6 March 2003, there was submitted [Report No 524/05](#) by the Director of Roads summarising the duties of the Council as enforcement authority under the Reservoirs Act 1975 and updating the Committee in respect of the Biennial Report for the reservoirs within Angus submitted to the Scottish Ministers.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Biennial Report submitted to the Scottish Ministers.

16. **"TWENTY'S PLENTY" SCHEMES**

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 November 2004, there was submitted [Report No 525/05](#) by the Director of Roads discussing the introduction of "Twenty's Plenty" advisory speed limit schemes throughout Angus and the need for monitoring and evaluation of the schemes.

The Report indicated that, in August 2001, the Scottish Executive had published guidance on the introduction of advisory 20 mph speed limits ("Twenty's Plenty") and a programme introducing these limits throughout all the Angus burghs had been implemented. The Executive's guidance required that advisory 20 mph speed limits should be monitored and evaluated after at least 12 months and not more than three years, with speeds and accidents being taken into account.

The Report concluded that the introduction of further advisory 20 mph speed limits ("Twenty's Plenty") in Angus be limited to those areas listed in Appendix B to the Report, until a full monitoring and evaluation exercise, as required by the Scottish Executive, had been carried out for the existing schemes.

Having heard various members welcome the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to the introduction of further "Twenty's Plenty" schemes throughout Angus as listed in Appendix B to the Report, subject to consultation with residents; and
- (ii) to approve a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation exercise of the existing "Twenty's Plenty" schemes throughout Angus as listed in Appendix A to the Report.

17. TENDERS ACCEPTED - 1 OCTOBER 2004 - 31 MARCH 2005

There was submitted and noted [Report No 526/05](#) by the Director of Roads detailing those tenders which he had accepted on behalf of the Council during the period 1 October 2004 to 31 March 2005, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

18. UTILISATION OF THE ROADS AND TRANSPORT RENEWAL AND REPAIRS FUND 2005/2006

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005, there was submitted [Report No 527/05](#) by the Director of Roads proposing utilisation of part of the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs Fund for various necessary works to be carried out in the financial year 2005/2006.

Having heard from a number of members, the Committee agreed that the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs Fund be utilised to the extent of £2,500,000 to allow the works listed below to be carried out:-

- (i) renewal and replacement of street lighting apparatus, as listed in Appendix A to the Report, at an estimated cost of £305,000;
- (ii) carriageway and footway works, as listed in Appendix B to the Report, at an estimated cost of £1,432,000;
- (iii) Traffic Management Infrastructure renewals at an estimated cost of £50,000;
- (iv) an allowance of £538,000 for the A92 Unitary Charge in anticipation of payments commencing in 2005/2006;
- (v) renewal and repair of Christmas Lighting features at an estimated cost of £25,000;
- (vi) renewal and repair works to quay surfaces at the Fish Market, Arbroath Harbour at an estimate cost of £50,000; and
- (vii) repairs to Muir of Pert Bridge at an estimated cost of £100,000.

19. STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING - SUB-CONSULTANCY PROVISION

There was submitted amended [Report No 529/05](#) by the Director of Roads giving details of the proposal to allow for the provision of structural engineering consultancy services for the period 1 May 2005 to 30 April 2008 inclusive.

The Report indicated that the services required were typical structural engineering tasks such as structural surveys, feasibility studies, structural design calculations and drawings, as well as on-site consultancy. These services were already provided by the Roads Department to other Council Departments, including Housing and Property Services and the proposed sub-consultancy arrangement would underpin the existing service level provision to these Departments.

The Committee agreed to approve the proposal to allow the Director of Roads to procure structural engineering services on the basis described in the Report for the period 1 May 2005 to 30 April 2008 inclusive.

Councillor Angus left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

20. CARNOUSTIE (BARRY BURN) FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME - REMEDIAL WORKS

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 528/05](#) by the Director of Roads informing the Committee of the need to carry out remedial works on the embankments of the Carnoustie (Barry Burn) Flood Prevention Scheme and proposing that the opportunity be taken to enhance the Scheme to provide protection against a 1 in 200 year flood.

The Report indicated that an engineering study commissioned by the Scottish Executive into the current level of protection provided by all existing formal (Council maintained) flood prevention schemes throughout Scotland was due to be reported on in September 2005. The Director of Roads had recently received an advance draft copy of the section dealing with the Carnoustie (Barry Burn) Flood Prevention Scheme. The consultant's (JBA Consultancy) report indicated that, although long lengths of the existing flood prevention embankments (levees) provided the design standard of protection for a 1 in 100 flood, there were sections where the tops of the embankments were lower than the original design levels (by 370 mm at the lowest point). Remedial works were therefore required to restore the required standard of protection.

The Report concluded that the embankments of the Carnoustie (Barry Burn) Flood Prevention Scheme required remedial works to restore the design standard of protection (1 in 100 year flood). If, however, minor additional works were carried out in conjunction with these remedial works, the Council could obtain excellent value for money in increasing the standard of protection to a 1 in 200 year flood.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the need to carry out remedial earthworks on the Carnoustie (Barry Burn) Flood Prevention Scheme to restore the design standard of protection for a 1 in 100 year flood;
- (ii) that the opportunity be taken to enhance the scheme to provide protection for a 1 in 200 year flood;
- (iii) to note that the costs of the work were estimated to be £180,000;
- (iv) that the project costs would be charged to the uncommitted available balance of £460,000 within the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs Fund, as referred to in Report No 527/05 (Article 18 above); and
- (v) to note that the possibility of a contribution from the Education Department in respect of benefits accruing to the proposed development of the new primary school at Thomas Street, Carnoustie would be explored and reported, if appropriate, to a future meeting.

21. PROPOSED DISPOSAL AT PARK AVENUE, CARNOUSTIE

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 17 March 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 356/05](#) by the Director of Property Services and the Director of Roads advising members that part of the car park at Park Avenue, Carnoustie was now surplus to the Council's requirements and recommending the invitation of offers for disposal of the site to one of the adjoining owners.

The Report indicated that, while the car park at Park Avenue was well used, there was an area measuring 141 square metres which was not utilised and was not required by any other Council Department. The owners of the two adjacent properties had expressed an interest in acquiring the site and it was not considered likely that there would be any other interested party.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to declare as surplus to the Council's requirements an area of ground extending to 141 square metres at the car park at Park Avenue, Carnoustie; and
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Property Services to invite offers for the acquisition of this ground from the two adjoining owners.

22. PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER ROADMAN'S HOUSE, FARNELL, BRECHIN

There was submitted [Report No 522/05](#) by the Director of Property Services advising the Committee that the former Roadman's House at Farnell, Brechin was vacant and surplus to the Council's requirements and recommending that the house be sold in terms of the title deed conditions.

The Report indicated that the former house had been vacant since 2004 and that the Director of Roads had confirmed that it was surplus to the Roads Department's requirements. No Department had notified an interest or identified a suitable alternative use.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to declare the former Roadman's House, Farnell, Brechin surplus to the requirements of the Council; and
- (iii) to approve the disposal of the former Roadman's House, Farnell, Brechin on the provisional terms and conditions contained in the Report.

23. TRAFFIC ORDERS

(a) Stopping-Up of a Section of Footpath at Montrose Academy

There was submitted [Joint Report No 531/05](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Roads seeking approval to promote a Stopping-Up Order under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to stop up a length of footpath at Montrose Academy.

The Report indicated that, following Lord Cullen's Inquiry into the tragedy of Dunblane in March 1996, specific recommendations had been made to improve security in schools. Over a number of years since that Report, significant progress had been made to improve security at all schools including Montrose Academy. However, a particular problem existed at Montrose Academy in that a section of public footpath traversed the precinct area between the two main school buildings. It was proposed to erect a fence at each end of the precinct area, with lockable gates, which would enable pupils to leave/enter the precinct before the commencement, and after the end, of the school day. These works would significantly improve security at Montrose Academy and address the concerns raised by Her Majesty's Inspector of Education. However, this arrangement would prevent members of the public using the footpath through the middle of the school's campus. A Stopping-Up Order was therefore required to extinguish the public right of passage.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to approve the promotion of a Stopping-Up Order to extinguish the public right of passage over a section of footpath within Montrose Academy precinct.

(b) Temporary Traffic Orders

There was submitted and noted [Report No 532/05](#) by the Director of Law and Administration advising that, at the request of the Director of Roads, five temporary Traffic Orders had been made, as detailed in the Report.

24. UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

With reference to Article 17 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005, there was submitted Report No 533/05 by the Director of Planning and Transport providing various statistics, graphs and charts showing unemployment rates by travel to work, numbers and ages of unemployed persons, duration of unemployment and the number of vacancies in Angus and neighbouring authorities for the month of February 2005.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

25. HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 10 MARCH - 28 APRIL 2005

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 March 2005, there was submitted [Report No 534/05](#) by the Chief Executive identifying the highlights and achievements of the work within the Economic Development Unit for the period 10 March - 28 April 2005. The Economic Development Manager also tabled a paper which summarised the events programme for Tartan Day 2005.

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

26. FORFAR FOOD FESTIVAL 2005

With reference to Article 37 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 535/05](#) by the Chief Executive asking the Committee to note the outcomes of the first Forfar Food Fest in July 2004 and the establishment of a Steering Group to manage and co-ordinate an expanded festival for 2005 that would involve food retailers and businesses throughout Angus. The Report also asked the Committee to note that support funding from the Forfar Common Good, of up to £15,000, had been approved at a special meeting of Angus Council on 10 February 2005.

The Report indicated that the intention was to expand the Forfar Food Fest as a key Angus event showcasing the high quality of food throughout the county and involving all retailers, food producers and food sector businesses in Angus. This would link in with the Angus Ahead and Town Promotion Initiatives.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcomes of the Forfar Food Fest 2004 and the ongoing arrangements to expand activities for the 2005 event on 13 August 2005; and
- (ii) to note that support funding of up to £15,000 from the Forfar Common Good was already in place.

27. CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR INTERACTIVE TAYSIDE

With reference to Article 36 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 536/05](#) by the Chief Executive recommending that the Council continue its financial support to Interactive Tayside for the period 2005 - 2007.

The Report indicated that Interactive Tayside was a partnership between Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils, the Universities and Further Education Colleges, which worked with companies and other initiatives in the creative industries. Interactive Tayside had been launched in November 2000 in recognition of the importance of the creative industries, in particular digital media, to both the Tayside and Scottish economies. Angus Digital Media Centre (ADMC) had been promoted and assisted by Interactive Tayside and, like ADMC, this initiative was unique in Scotland.

The Report concluded that the growth of the creative industries and digital media continued and the partnership agreement with Interactive Tayside assisted in promoting associated companies in this sector to the benefit of Angus.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of "Interactive Tayside 2005 - 2007 - Continued Partnership Proposal" attached as Appendix 1 to Report No 536/05;
- (ii) to continue the Angus Council contribution for the three financial years to 2007 - 2008 as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Report; and
- (iii) to note that the three year cumulative contribution of £8,815 represented 8.6% of the project funding package.

28. EUROPEAN GRANT UPTAKE 2004/2005

With reference to Article 38 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004, there was submitted [Report No 537/05](#) by the Chief Executive outlining the uptake of European grants by Angus Council in the financial year 2004/2005.

The Report indicated that EU funding had played a vital role in generating additional income to the Council and Angus as a whole. In addition, it was important to maximise opportunities up to the end of 2006. From September 2000 to date, 63 projects had been submitted, with the amount approved amounting to £3,381,480. A further 26 projects had received grants with Angus Council providing match funding, bringing the total amount approved in Angus to £5,528,086. Appendix 1 to the Report provided a full list of the projects to date.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report and the annual uptake of EU funding by Angus Council.

29. ANGUS MARKETING PILOT (ANGUS PORTAL) - TENDER RESULTS AND PROJECT PROGRESS

With reference to Article 30 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2005, there was submitted [Report No 538/05](#) by the Chief Executive outlining the results of a tendering exercise for Marketing and Content contracts for the Angus Web Portal and providing an update on project progress and expenditure.

The Report indicated that, although some slippage had been experienced, fair progress was being made considering the scale and the complexity of the project, with the Angus Web Portal, angusahead.com, due to be launched in May 2005. Overall project costs and Angus Council contributions remained unchanged and the budget had been re-profiled to reflect the activity and expenditure profile of the main web development and hosting contract and supporting contracts for content and marketing.

The Report concluded that the accepted tenders for the contracts for Content (Angus Location Guide) and Marketing (Angus Portal Launch Marketing) provided best value on price and quality.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the tendering exercise;
- (ii) to note the acceptance of the successful tenders under delegated authority by the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Directors of Finance and Law and Administration and in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Convener of this Committee;
- (iii) to note the revised timetable and to approve the re-profiled project expenditure, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report, with particular reference to the programme of activity and expenditure for supporting services i.e., marketing and content services; and
- (iv) that, in view of delays to the project, to extend the delegated authority for the remainder of the project period as indicated in paragraph 6.1 of the Report.

30. NEW LEASES, ANGUS COUNCIL BUSINESS PROPERTY

With reference to Article 26 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2005, there was submitted [Report No 539/05](#) 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.

31. THE GLENESK TRUST

With reference to Article 35 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 540/05](#) by the Chief Executive referring to financial assistance granted by the Tayside Rural Development Facilitators Project (TRDFP) to the Glenesk Trust during the 2004/2005 financial year.

The Report indicated that a contribution from the Council had demonstrated its willingness to support the community of Glen Esk, an isolated rural community whose population levels were critical, and to contribute to the regeneration of Tarfside and Glen Esk. The refurbishment of "The Retreat" was leading to the development of local skills and management and project development. This was a highly successful partnership venture, community led and community driven and with substantial resource and in kind investment by Angus Council.

The Committee agreed to note the expenditure of £3,676.90 from the Economic Development budget for 2004/2005 to help finance costs associated with the refurbishment building of "The Retreat" at Tarfside, Glen Esk.

32. BUSINESS GATEWAY - SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

With reference to Article 32 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 April 2004, there was submitted [Report No 541/05](#) by the Chief Executive informing members of the Business Gateway Angus achievement towards meeting the targets set for its 2004/2005 Service Level Agreement with the Council. The Report also advised of general progress with the Tayside Business Gateway and of the targets agreed for 2005/2006.

The Report indicated that, overall, the Business Gateway office in Angus appeared to be performing adequately, although comparison with previous years had been difficult since the introduction of the new Customer Relations Management system. There were question marks about the efficiency and value for money of the current delivery model and it was proposed that this be investigated during the course of 2005/2006.

Having heard from the Economic Development Manager, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Director of Law and Administration to sign the Minute of Variation and Extension of Contract on behalf of Angus Council; and
- (ii) to authorise the Economic Development Manager to participate in the review of the operations of the Gateway and instruct him to report back on developments associated with the review as appropriate.

33. PICTAVIA: UPDATE ON OPERATIONAL AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES

There was submitted [Report No 542/05](#) by the Chief Executive advising members on operational and marketing progress at Pictavia for the 2005 season.

The Report indicated that, since refurbishment of the Centre in 2003, the reception arrangements involving the Tourist Information Centre had bedded in and Pictavia visitor numbers were rising. Further developments were expected regarding the VisitScotland Network replacement of the Area Tourist Board and the potential for further engagement with the Pictish Arts Society.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress on operational arrangements on the marketing activity underway for Pictavia for the 2005 season; and

- (ii) to note the discussions ongoing with the Pictish Arts Society regarding the potential for a future enhanced role for the society in Pictavia's operations and day-to-day running of the Centre.

34. ANGUS AND DUNDEE TOURISM PARTNERSHIP

There was submitted [Report No 543/05](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval for the Council's engagement in and membership of a new Angus and Dundee Tourism Partnership, as part of the required liaison arrangements following the replacement of Angus and Dundee Tourist Board by the new VisitScotland Network, which took effect from 1 April 2005.

The Report indicated that, in view of the new VisitScotland Network arrangements, there was a need to have an effective liaison mechanism in place to ensure that elected members and the private sector could engage with VisitScotland to fully represent local interests. It was therefore recommended that the Council agree to the membership proposals and the outline constitution for the new Partnership as contained in the Report. The Committee's advice was also sought in respect of the Angus Council elected member representatives and it was recommended that the officer representative from Angus Council be nominated by the Chief Executive.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the requirement for effective partnership liaison arrangements in the context of the new Visit Scotland Network changes for the Angus and Dundee areas;
- (ii) to participate in a new Angus and Dundee Tourism Partnership on the basis of the remit, membership and draft constitution as set out in section 3 of Report No 543/05; and
- * (iii) to recommend that the Council's representation on the Partnership be the Convener of this Committee and the Vice Convener of the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee and one officer nominated by the Chief Executive.

35. 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 36 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, 8 and 9.

36. SALE OF UNIT 3, SIR WILLIAM SMITH ROAD, KIRKTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, ARBROATH

There was submitted [Report No 544/05](#) by the Chief Executive advising members of a request from Mechserv to purchase Unit 3, Sir William Smith Road, Kirkton Industrial Estate, Arbroath.

The Report indicated that the sale of this building to Mechserv would secure 30 jobs in Arbroath, with potential for a further 5, minimise future financial risk to the Council and secure a net capital receipt.

Having heard Councillor Nield express some concerns relating to these proposals, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to authorise the appropriate officers to take the necessary steps to terminate those leases which would facilitate the sale of Unit 3, Sir William Smith Road, Kirkton Industrial Estates, Arbroath to Mechserv; and
- (iii) to authorise the officers to enter into discussions with Mechserv to conclude the sale of Unit 3 for the target price as detailed in the Report.