

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 2 February 2006 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors ALEX KING, RON SCRIMGEOUR, JACK GIBB, IAN MACKINTOSH, STEWART McGLYNN (substitute for GLENNIS MIDDLETON), Provost BILL MIDDLETON, ROB MURRAY, TERRY WOOD (substitute for ROBERT MYLES), PETER NIELD, GEORGE NORRIE MBE, HELEN OSWALD, BILL ROBERTON, MARK SALMOND and DAVID SELFRIDGE.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors GLENNIS MIDDLETON, PETER MURPHY and ROBERT MYLES.

Councillor KING, Convener in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor King declared an interest in item 34 as a Council appointee to the Arbroath Golf Course Committee of Management,

Councillor Scrimgeour declared an interest in item 26 as (i) a Council appointee to Age Concern Angus; and (ii) as the husband of a volunteer Counsellor with Angus Mental Health Association.

Councillor Oswald declared an interest in item 7 as the wife of a Carnoustie Community Councillor.

Councillors Norrie, Salmond and Wood declared an interest in item 20 as Governors of Dorward House.

2. REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION

The Committee agreed, in accordance with Standing Order No 12, to hear a deputation from the Montrose Skatepark Committee with regard to funding of a skatepark facility in Montrose.

On behalf of the deputation, Steve Findlater and Councillor Kitty Ritchie addressed the meeting and advised that while the Skatepark Committee had raised the sum of £22,000, the Committee had been unsuccessful in an application to SportsScotland for funding and asked members to consider utilising a total of £25,000 from the Montrose Common Good Fund, to enable the full cost of £47,000 to be met in respect of this project. They explained that the commitment of £25,000 from the Council was also necessary to enable an application to be made to the Youth Lottery Fund for grant aid.

Following a number of questions, the representatives of the Skatepark Committee were thanked for their attendance and withdrew to the public benches.

3. MONTROSE SKATEPARK - MONTROSE COMMON GOOD FUND

With reference to Article 23 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 206/06](#) by the Chief Executive seeking members views on a proposal to utilise the Montrose Common Good Fund in the amount of £25,000 to assist with development of a skatepark facility in the area.

The Report indicated that the total cost of a skatepark facility would be £47,000 of which the Skatepark Committee had raised £22,000. Their application to SportsScotland for funding had been unsuccessful and the Skatepark Committee had now applied for a total of £25,000 from Montrose Common Good Fund to fund this project.

At this stage of the proceedings the Committee adjourned for 10 minutes and resumed at 4.50pm.

Councillor Salmond, seconded by Councillor Wood, moved that in light of the custom and practice for decisions on the use of Common Good Funds to reflect the views of local members and given that the majority of Montrose members were not supportive of the utilisation of £25,000 from the Montrose Common Good Fund for development of a skatepark, the Committee should agree:-

- (i) to make no funds available in respect of this development from Montrose Common Good Fund, at this stage; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Leisure Services to explore with the Montrose Skatepark Committee, further external funding options, plus further fund raising events and submit a Report to this Committee in due course.

Councillor Scrimgeour, seconded by Councillor McGlynn, moved, as an amendment, that:-

- (I) THE SUM OF £18,000 PREVIOUSLY AGREED BY THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD BE CONFIRMED;
- (II) AUTHORITY BE GIVEN FOR ANY BALANCE UP TO A LIMIT OF £7,000 TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM MONTROSE COMMON GOOD FUND FOR THIS PROJECT; AND
- (III) REGRET BE EXPRESSED THAT THIS COMMITTEE WAS, WITH RELUCTANCE, HAVING TO TAKE THIS INITIATIVE ON THIS ISSUE.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:

Councillors Wood, Norrie and Salmond (3)

For the amendment:

Councillors Scrimgeour, Gibb, McGlynn, Murray, Nield and Oswald (6)

No votes:

Councillors King, Mackintosh, Provost Middleton, Robertson and Selfridge (5).

The amendment was declared carried and became the finding of the meeting.

The following matter was, on the determination of the Convener, dealt with as a matter of urgency in order that the equipment could be purchased in the current financial year.

4. UPGRADING OF DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - VIREMENT OF FUNDS

There was submitted [Report No 220/06](#) by the Director of Property Services advising members on an option to upgrade the majority of the Property Services Department information technology equipment funded in financial year 2005/2006 through virement from slippage in the departmental budget.

The Report indicated that the department had established a strategy of replacing this equipment on a four yearly basis, subject to available funding.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the proposed virement of £95,000 between the staff costs and supplies and services budget for 2005/2006; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Property Services and the Director of Information Technology to proceed with the upgrade of this information technology equipment.

5. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Appeals Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Appeals Sub-Committee of 29 November 2005](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Sounding Board

The [minute of meeting of the Sounding Board of 1 December 2005](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX II**).

(d) Executive Sub-Committee

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

6. SERVICE PLANS PROGRESS/PERFORMANCE

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 June 2005, there were submitted the following Reports outlining the progress to date in implementing updated Departmental Service Plans:-

(a) Chief Executive's Department - [Report No 151/06](#) by the Chief Executive.

(b) Law and Administration Department - [Report No 163/06](#) by the Director of Law and Administration.

(c) Information Technology Department - [Report No 164/06](#) by the Director of Information Technology.

(d) Property Services Department - [Report No 165/06](#) by the Director of Property Services.

(e) Finance Department - [Report No 166/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

(i) to note the progress being made to implement the actions in the above Service Plans, with specific attention to significant points of progress;

(ii) to note performance against key indicators as identified within the Reports; and

(iii) to instruct the appropriate officers to submit the Service Plan updates 2006/2007 to the meeting of this Committee on 4 May 2006.

7. CARNOUSTIE ACCESS OFFICE - DISABLED ACCESS TO UPPER FLOOR

There was submitted [Report No 167/05](#) by the Director of Property Services advising of a request from Carnoustie Community Council that Angus Council urgently consider updating the former Carnoustie Council Chamber building in order to make it accessible to disabled persons and thereby make it possible for the Community Council to again hold meetings in the premises.

The Report indicated that the provision of an internal platform lift within the stairwell of the building had been examined but proved to be impractical. The provision of an external lift at the rear door would cost in the region of £100,000. The provision of a platform lift within the office space might be possible at an estimated cost of £80,000 but would be at the expense of useable floor space. This work had not been included in any of the Council's current capital or revenue programmes.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and that the Community Council currently met regularly in Carnoustie Public Library; and
- (ii) to take no further action on the request by Carnoustie Community Council.

8. STANDARDISATION OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

There was submitted [Report No 168/06](#) by the Director of Property Services advising on the adoption of a strategy to standardise the Building Management Systems (BMS) for Council non-housing buildings and seeking authorisation for specific arrangements for the future procurement of BMS development works.

The Report indicated that the Property Services Department utilised BMS to manage the heating and ventilation systems in a range of Council non-housing buildings and detailed the results of a review undertaken of this, with the changes already implemented and the procurement implications for the future.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Property Services to undertake future procurement of the BMS developments works either by a single written quotation, or by single specification and provision within all appropriate projects; and
- (iii) to note that exempt contracts for BMS development works would still be subject to consultation and agreement with the Exemptions Co-ordinator, where appropriate.

9. FORFAR COAT OF ARMS RESTORATION, MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FORFAR

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee of 24 January 2006, there was submitted [Joint Report No 126/06](#) by the Director of Leisure Services and the Director of Property Services advising members that the Forfar Coat of Arms within Municipal Buildings had now been fully restored at a cost of £6,000, which had been met from the uncommitted 2005/2006 Revenue Budget of the Forfar Common Good Fund.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

10. PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF 0.2 HECTARES OR THEREBY OF AMENITY LAND AT ALBERT PLACE, BRECHIN

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee of 24 January 2006, there was submitted [Joint Report No 118/06](#) by the Director of Leisure Services and the Director of Property Services advising members that the vacant grassed area of land amounting to 0.2 hectares or thereby to the north of Albert Place, Brechin was surplus to the requirements of the Council and recommending that the land be marketed for sale on the open market.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Property Services to advertise this site on the open market and arrange for its disposal.

11. NEW ELECTRICITY SUPPLY - PEASIEHILL RECYCLING CENTRE, ARBROATH

There was submitted [Report No 169/06](#) by the Director of Property Services advising on the arrangements in place for altering and providing new supplies of electricity and gas to Council non-housing buildings and seeking homologation of the decision to instruct, due to the urgent nature of the works, a new electricity supply for the recycling centre at Peasiehill, Arbroath.

The Report indicated that the new centre, which was in the process of being established at Peasiehill, involved the acquisition and adaptation of a storage area and it had been established that the existing electricity supply was insufficient for the power required.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to homologate the decision taken by the Director of Property Services, in consultation with the Convener and other members of the Executive Sub-Committee, the Chief Executive and the Acting Director of Finance, to instruct the necessary works for a new electricity supply at Peasiehill, Arbroath.

12. ACQUISITION OF LAND EXTENDING TO 250 SQ METRES OR THEREBY AT TANNADICE VILLAGE

With reference to Article 146 of the minute of meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 26 January 2006, there was submitted [Joint Report No 146/06](#) by the Director of Property Services and the Director of Roads requesting authority to acquire an area of land amounting to 250 sq metres or thereby at Tannadice Village for housing a sediment trap, and approval of the provisionally agreed terms and conditions in respect of the acquisition and such further terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Property Services.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the acquisition of the area of ground on the terms and conditions detailed in the Report.

13. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE PROGRESS REPORT 2005/2006

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 170/06](#) by the Director of Property Services setting out the current status of expenditure on the maintenance of non-housing properties as at 31 December 2005.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

14. ENERGY BUDGET PROGRESS REPORT 2005/2006

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 171/06](#) by the Director of Property Services setting out the current status of expenditure on the individual Council heating, fuel and electricity budgets for non-housing properties as at 31 December 2005.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

15. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SPEND TO SAVE 2005/2006 PROGRAMME

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 September 2005 there was submitted [Report No 172/06](#) by the Director of Property Services seeking approval of the provision of supplementary funding from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund to undertake a programme of energy and environmental conservation projects in support of the Council's Energy Management Strategy, at an estimated cost of £56,500.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the programme of energy and environmental conservation projects planned for 2005/2006;
- (ii) to approve a bid for supplementary funding in the sum of £56,500 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund, 2005/2006; and
- (iii) to note the proposed transfer of £30,000 works from Spend to Save funding to Central Energy Efficiency funding.

16. PROPERTY RENEWAL AND REPAIR FUND - UPDATE OF FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS AND PLANNED PROGRAMME OF URGENT REPAIRS

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 173/06](#) by the Director of Property Services advising on the next phase of programmes of urgent repairs to be undertaken utilising the Property Renewal and Repair Fund.

The Report indicated that the programme of urgent repairs detailed in the Report should be undertaken timeously to ensure that the properties concerned were brought up to standard at the earliest possible date.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the next phase of planned programme work at an estimated cost of £339,452 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund for the execution of urgent property repairs; and
- (iii) to note the de-commitment of £24,800 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in financial year 2003/2004 and its re-deployment for other urgent property repairs or return to the Fund balances.

17. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 174/06](#) by the Director of Property Services advising of the outcome of negotiations for various new leases, rent review, lease renewals and a negotiated disposal.

The Committee agreed to note and approve the conclusion of negotiations for the transactions as detailed in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Report.

18. TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH OFFICES AT ORCHARDBANK, FORFAR

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of this Committee of 30 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 175/06](#) by the Director of Information Technology seeking approval to expand the existing telephone system for the Social Work and Health Department in Orchardbank.

The Report indicated that, following satisfactory completion of the telephone system by British Telecom in respect of the Housing Department at Orchardbank, it was proposed that this be extended to include staff within the Social Work and Health Department who were to be re-located to Orchardbank.

The Committee agreed:-

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

- (ii) to approve the expansion of the existing telephony system at Orchardbank at a cost of £32,903 to facilitate the move of the Social Work and Health Department to new office premises; and
- (iii) to exempt the procurement from normal competitive tendering in terms of 16.3.2(b) of Financial Regulations in view of the specialised nature of the system, with British Telecom to be awarded the contract.

19. COMPUTER SYSTEM BACK-UP AND RECOVERY

There was submitted [Report No 176/06](#) by the Director of Information Technology seeking approval to extend the computer system back-up and recovery facilities for computer servers located throughout the Council.

The Report indicated that this proposed extension would provide additional storage capacity and additional resilience and relieve network load.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve extension of the current back-up and recovery facilities at a cost of approximately £41,000;
- (iii) to purchase the extension system from Comm Vault Systems Inc; and
- (iv) to exempt this procurement from normal competitive tendering arrangements in terms of 16.3.2.(b) of Financial Regulations in view of the specialist nature of the services.

20. SALE OF DORWARD LODGE, MONTROSE

There was submitted [Report No 177/06](#) by the Director of Law and Administration advising members that in order to raise funds for improvements to the main building, the Governors of Dorward House wished to dispose of Dorward Lodge.

The Report indicated that a condition contained in the title deeds prohibited disposal of any part of the ground without the sanction of the local authority.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to consent to the sale of Dorward Lodge by the Governors of Dorward House, Montrose.

21. CAPITAL PROJECT APPRAISAL - PROPOSED PRINT AND DESIGN UNIT AT ORCHARDBANK, FORFAR

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 1 July 2004, there was submitted [Joint Report No 178/06](#) by the Director of Property Services and the Director of Law and Administration outlining the outcome of a Capital Project Appraisal of options for the replacement of the Print and Design Unit and recommending that a new build option at Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar be approved.

The Report indicated that, in order to maintain the function and service delivery of this Unit and in view of the proposed disposal of St James House, it was necessary to relocate the facility and the various options explored demonstrated that it was possible to relocate the Unit in Forfar, close to Orchardbank.

The Committee agreed:-

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

- (ii) to note that a full Capital Project Appraisal had been considered and approved by the Capital Budget Sub-Group for the replacement of the Print and Design Unit currently located in St James House;
- (iii) to approve the relocation of the Council's Print and Design Unit facility to a new purpose built industrial unit at Orchardbank Business Park, following the vacation of St James House in early 2007;
- (iv) to note the estimated capital cost of £867,500, as detailed in the Report and that the Property Services Section of the 2005/2009 Financial Plan would be revised to accommodate this expenditure;
- (v) to note the revenue implications arising from this project (first full year 2007/2008) as contained in the Report;
- (vi) to ring-fence the Council's share of the capital receipt arising from the acquisition of the site estimated at £82,500 as detailed in the Report; and
- (vii) to approve the exemption of the contract to construct the Print and Design Unit facility from normal tendering arrangements in accordance with Financial Regulation 16.3.2(d) and in accordance with the Development Agreement with Muir Construction for the Orchardbank Business Park.

22. CARNOUSTIE GOLF COURSE HOTEL AND RESORT LTD - CONSENT TO ASSIGNATION OF LEASE AND RELATED MATTERS

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 9 December 1997, there was submitted [Report No 192/06](#) by the Director of Law and Administration seeking the consent of the Committee to the Assignation of the Lease and related Agreements between the Council and Carnoustie Golf Course Hotel and Resort Ltd, following the proposed sale of this hotel business to Swallow Hotels Ltd.

Having heard from the Director of Law and Administration, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to consent to the assignation by Carnoustie Golf Course Hotel and Resort Ltd of its interest in the lease agreement between the Council and the Company to Mineflow Investments Ltd and to the onward sub-Lease by Mineflow of its interest to Swallow Hotels Ltd; and
- (ii) to consent to the assignation by Carnoustie Golf Course Hotel and Resort Ltd of its interest in the related agreements referred to in the Report to Mineflow Investments Ltd, all subject to:-
 - payment to the Council of any outstanding rent or other monies due to the Council by CGCH&RL in terms of the lease agreement;
 - approval to the assignation being also granted by the Carnoustie Golf Links Management Committee and Scottish Enterprise Tayside, the other parties to the Agreement;
 - confirmation that consent to the sub-lease by Mineflow is in relation to Swallow Hotels only, and that if at any future date Mineflow propose to sub-lease to any other party, the consent of the Council would be required;
 - the Director of Law and Administration being satisfied as to any other legal issues arising;

and that any further decisions arising out of the legal negotiations be delegated to the Executive Sub-Committee.

23. QUARTERLY JOINT STAFFING WATCH

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted and noted [Report No 179/06](#) by the Chief Executive advising members of the Council's Quarterly Joint Staffing Watch return to the Scottish Executive for the period to 2 December 2005 and detailed comparisons with the return for September 2005.

24. SICKNESS ABSENCE JULY - SEPTEMBER 2005

With reference to Article 23 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 October 2005, there was submitted and noted [Report No 181/06](#) by the Chief Executive advising of the level of sickness absence within the Council for the period 1 July to 30 September 2005 which compared favourably with the same period last year.

25. ESTABLISHMENT CHANGES

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted and noted [Report No 180/06](#) by the Chief Executive summarising changes to the Chief Executive's, Education, Environmental and Consumer Protection, Housing, Information Technology, Leisure Services, Planning and Transport, Roads and Social Work and Health Departments during the period 5 November 2005 to 4 January 2006.

26. ANGUS COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

With reference to Article 26 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 145/06](#) by the Chief Executive recommending payments of over £500 in respect of applications received in terms of the Council's Community Grant Scheme and advising members of applications which had been approved for £500 or less.

The Committee agreed:-

(i) to make the following decisions in respect of applications for grants over £500:-

Dementia Services Development Trust	-	£587
Age Concern, Angus	-	£515
Angus Mental Health Association	-	No award
Angus Musical Youth Theatre	-	Deferred
Melville Bowling Club	-	£3,737
Angus Cricket Development Club	-	Deferred
Scottish Adult Learning Partnership	-	No award
Girl Guiding Angus	-	£1,400
Girl Guiding Angus (Development)	-	£750;

(ii) to note the following decisions in respect of applications for £500 or less:-

Arbroath Lipreading Group	-	£500
Age Concern, Montrose	-	£500
Monifieth Hillwalking and Rambling Club	-	No award
Cli Gaidhlig	-	£300

27. SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2005/2006

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 17 January 2006, there was submitted [Joint Report No 103/06](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Acting Director of Finance advising members of the outturn position for the Social Work and Health Department's Revenue Budget, 2005/2006 and commenting on major variances arising and outlining measures to contain the outturn within the agreed Revenue Budget.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

28. HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME - HRA BLOCK - 2005/2006

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Housing Committee of 19 January 2006, there was submitted [Report No 3/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance setting out the latest capital estimate for the year and the capital spend figures to the end of November 2005, in respect of the HRA Housing Capital Programme and the HRA Planned Maintenance Programme 2005/2006.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the figures presented for the HRA Housing Capital Programme.

29. CAPITAL MONITORING - COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/2006

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 184/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period from 1 April to 31 December 2005 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the position on the Composite Capital Programme as at 31 December 2005, as detailed in the Monitoring Statement which accompanied the Report;
- (iii) to note that, as part of the budget process for 2006/2007, it was expected that the Capital Budget Sub-Group, in conjunction with the Capital Projects Monitoring Group, would continue to review the position on the Composite Capital Programme and address issues relating to the projected spend position, possible slippage on projects and resources potentially available for 2005/2006; and
- (iv) to note that projections of the year end position on the Composite Capital Programme would be on-going and brought forward on a regular basis to future meetings of this Committee.

30. REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT

With reference to Article 19 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 185/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising members of the actual revenue expenditure incurred and income received in respect of the Council's departments for the period 1 April to 31 December 2005.

The Report indicated that, under some of the cost heads, the actual expenditure of individual departments was still currently ahead of the phased budget and, while there were no particular concerns arising from these, the position would continue to be monitored closely to ensure that overall net expenditure did not exceed departmental cash limited budgets.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

31. REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2005/2006

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 186/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance giving an indication of the likely revenue outturn for the financial year 2005/2006.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the Property Services department virement of £95,000 as approved at Article 4 above.

32. RENEWAL AND REPAIRS FUNDS FOR PROPERTY, ROADS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT, VEHICLE AND PRINTING AT 31 DECEMBER 2005

With reference to Article 21 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 187/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance reporting on the actual financial position of the Renewal and Repairs Funds for Property, Roads, Information Technology, Equipment and Printing as at 31 December 2005, which showed a total balance available of approximately £1,611,999.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

33. REMISSION OF RATES

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 188/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising members of applications for Remission of Rates and recommending that they be granted, which would result in an annual cost to the Council of £382.89

The Committee agreed to approve the applications for Remission of Rates as detailed in the Report.

34. ARBROATH GOLF COURSE - PROPOSED CHARGES FOR YEAR ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2006

With reference to Article 25 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 December 2004, there was submitted [Report No 189/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance submitting the proposed charges for Arbroath Golf Course Committee of Management for the year ending 31 October 2006.

The Report indicated that the Committee of Management's forecast profit and loss account, balance sheet and proposed charges had provided a reasonable financial base from which to continue operations.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the proposed charges for the year ending 31 October 2006, as detailed in the Report.

35. 2006/2007 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS - IMPLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BUDGET PREPARATION PROGRESS UPDATE

With reference to Article 35 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 February 2005, there was submitted [Report No 190/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising members of the implications for the Council arising from the 2006/2007 Local Government Finance Settlement and providing an update on the progress being made in preparing the 2006/2007 revenue and capital budgets.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Executive had increased the Council's grant support by a gross sum of £7.441million for 2006/2007 and, after allowing for the mainstreaming of specific grant, new burdens and ring fenced resources, a balance of £3.164million was available to the Council to meet identified budget pressures. This sum was insufficient to meet these pressures and had necessitated consideration of cuts proposals to provide the Council with options for consideration to enable a balanced revenue budget to be set.

Members expressed concern at the lack of funding proposed by Scottish Ministers, which rendered it impossible to achieve an increase of only 2½% in Council Tax.

The Committee agreed:-

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

- (ii) to note that the aggregate external finance allocation to the Council for 2006/2007 had been provisionally set at £173.235million;
- (iii) to note the budget implications arising from a substantial proportion of the aggregate external finance increase consisting of resources over which the Council had little or no discretion regarding the use of;
- (iv) to note that further announcements were still awaited from the Scottish Executive regarding amendments to the Council's aggregate external finance total for 2006/2007, but that these were assumed to have an overall neutral impact on the revenue budget;
- (v) to note the capital grants which had been made available by the Scottish Executive over the period 2006/2007 to 2007/2008; and
- (vi) to note that special meetings of service Committees to consider individual departmental revenue and capital budgets and department budget cuts proposals for 2006/2007 were due to be held on 9 February 2006.

36. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 27(2), that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item, so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 paragraph 12.

37. A92 PROJECT - DISPUTE

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of meeting of the Council of 20 February 2003, there was submitted [Joint Report No 191/06](#) by the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Roads and the Acting Director of Finance advising members of a dispute which had arisen between the Council and Dundee City Council in relation to the operation of, and responsibility for, certain ancillary elements to the upgraded road within the Dundee area and recommending that authority be delegated to officers to pursue formal dispute resolution procedures.

The Report indicated that the Agreement provided that where disputes could not be resolved between the parties concerned, this would be by way of arbitration.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that a dispute had arisen between the Council and Dundee City Council in respect of the operation of, and responsibility for, certain matters, particularly street lighting and side roads, ancillary to the upgraded A92 and lying within the Dundee City Council area; and
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Law and Administration, in consultation with the Director of Roads and the Acting Director of Finance, to pursue appropriate steps to resolve the dispute, including formal dispute resolution.