

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 5 September 2006 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors ROB MURRAY, BILL ROBERTON, SHEENA WELSH (substitute for IAN ANGUS), FRANK ELLIS, JACK GIBB, ALEX KING, IAN MACKINTOSH, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, JOY MOWATT, BOB MYLES, GEORGE NORRIE MBE, HELEN OSWALD (substitute for DAVID SELFRIDGE), JENNIFER SPEIRS, RICHARD SPEIRS and TERRY WOOD.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors IAN ANGUS and DAVID SELFRIDGE.

Councillor MURRAY, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee agreed to note that no declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 June 2006](#) 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 27 June 2006](#) was submitted and noted. **(APPENDIX I)**

(c) Monitoring Group

The [minute of meeting of the Monitoring Group of 17 August 2006](#) was submitted and noted.

3. CAPITAL MONITORING - COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/2007

With reference to Article 27 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 31 August 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1049/06](#) by the Director of Corporate Services advising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period from 1 April to 31 July 2006 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

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

4. REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT

With reference to Article 29 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 31 August 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1051/06](#) by the Director of Corporate Services 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 July 2006.

The Report indicated that, under some cost heads, departmental actual expenditure was currently ahead of the phased budget and, while there were no particular concerns arising from these areas, 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.

5. REVENUE BUDGET OUT-TURN 2006/2007

With reference to Article 28 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 31 August 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1050/06](#) by the Director of Corporate Services giving an indication of the likely revenue outturn for the financial year 2006/2007 reflecting ongoing monitoring of budget versus actual expenditure.

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

6. FINAL CAPITAL BUDGET VOLUME 2006/2007

With reference to Article 30 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 31 August 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1052/06](#) by the Director of Corporate Services seeking approval of the 2006/2007 Final Capital Budget Volume, incorporating the updated 2005/2009 Financial Plan and the 2006/2007 Capital Monitoring Budget.

The Report indicated that the process of drawing together and issuing 2006/2007 Capital Budget had now been completed and the 2006/2007 Final Capital Budget Volume would, subject to approval, be distributed for use within departments and would be the base utilised for performance monitoring purposes.

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

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IN ANGUS – QUARTERLY REPORT

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 June 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1061/06](#) by the Chief Executive providing members with an update on Community Planning activities in Angus for the period May to July 2006.

The Report detailed activities in which the Angus Community Partnership had been engaged, along with the activity of the thematic partnership groups and an update of local community planning activities, incorporating a Financial Report by the Director of Corporate Services on the Community Planning budgets, managed by Angus Council.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

8. SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE TAYSIDE - FUNDING UPDATE

There was submitted [Joint Report No 1093/06](#) by the Chief Executive and the Director of Infrastructure Services providing members with an update on the latest position on Scottish Enterprise Tayside's funding contribution towards Angus Council projects.

The Report detailed the latest position regarding SET Funded Capital Projects within the 2005/2009 Financial Plan, and highlighted the position with regard to projects in Angus. The Report also referred to the policy change within Scottish Enterprise which would focus resources on projects of national or regional significance, which was likely to have the impact of directing the bulk of their resources to the major towns and cities, to the detriment of rural areas such as Angus.

A number of members expressed their concerns over the impact on particular projects.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report and that the reduction in funding would be raised with SET at the next joint Strategy Group meeting.

9. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF REGULATION, AUDIT, INSPECTION AND COMPLAINTS HANDLING OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN SCOTLAND

There was submitted [Report No 1062/06](#) by the Chief Executive advising members of the setting up of an Independent Review of Regulation, Audit, Inspection and Complaints Handling of Public Services in Scotland, which had been established to provide a detailed report with recommendations. Appended to the Report was a copy of a letter from the Scottish Executive which gave a broad indication of the various stages of the review.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to welcome the establishment of the Independent Review of Regulation, Audit, Inspection and Complaints Handling of Public Services in Scotland.

10. THE SCOTTISH CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION

There was submitted [Report No 1068/06](#) by the Chief Executive seeking the Committee's endorsement of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration.

The Report indicated that the Sustainable Scotland Network had developed a "Scottish Local Authority Climate Change Declaration" which they believed would complement a similar declaration with regard to climate change in England as well as the Welsh Local Authority Climate Change Declaration. The Scottish Declaration could establish the standard for similar declarations across the public sector in Scotland, and a copy of the Declaration which Angus Council was being asked to endorse and sign, attached as an appendix to the Report.

The Committee agreed to endorse the Scottish Climate Change Declaration.

11. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE - TRANSFORMING PUBLIC SERVICES

There was submitted [Report No 1094/06](#) by the Chief Executive advising the Committee of the publication of a Scottish Executive document entitled "Transforming Public Services".

The Report indicated that this document set out various ideas to transform public services and followed on from a number of other papers of a similar vein. The Scottish Executive was not at the stage of seeking any formal views with regard to the paper, as it had established mechanisms through COSLA to identify specific agreed actions which local authorities might pursue. It was suggested that officers prepare a commentary on the paper and that this be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the publication of the Scottish Executive's document entitled "Transforming Public Services"; and
- (ii) to instruct officers to prepare a commentary for consideration by this Committee.

12. SCOTLAND'S TARTAN DAY GOLF CHALLENGE 2007

With reference to Article 23 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 October 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1095/06](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services concerning a proposal to market Scotland's Tartan Day International Golf Challenge 2007 as part of the Council's Tartan Day Programme, with a view to attracting overseas visitors to Scotland, and in particular Angus, in April 2007.

The Report indicated that the staging of this golf tournament as an annual event could provide significant benefits in terms of tourism and would bring overseas visitors to Angus at a time of year which was traditionally a difficult time for the tourist trade.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the successful outcome of the inaugural "Scotland's Tartan Day International Golf Challenge" held in April this year;
- (ii) to note the successful outcome of negotiations and preparations for the staging of "Scotland's Tartan Day International Golf Challenge 2007" as part of Angus Council's core programme for Scotland's Tartan Day celebration in April 2007;
- (iii) to authorise the Head of Economic Development to take forward the proposed golf tournament as outlined in the Report;

- (iv) to approve exemptions from normal tendering procedures in accordance with Financial Regulations 16.3.2b to enable Platinum Events Management Company Ltd to be contracted to manage the event at an agreed cost of £9,145 and to enable Scotia Travel to be contracted to provide administration of the event and to provide the necessary ABTA and other bonded assurance for prospective customers at an agreed cost of £3,000; and
- (v) to note that, in the unlikely event of the financial viability of the proposed tournament becoming marginal, a further report would be brought to the Committee to seek direction on how to proceed.

13. ANGUS INTEGRATED PLAN FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2005/2008 - PROGRESS REPORT 2005/2006

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 22 August 2006, there was submitted [Joint Report No 965/06](#) by the Chief Executive, the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education advising members of the development of a 2005/2006 progress report on the Angus Integrated Plan for Children's Services 2005-2008.

The draft Integrated Children's Services Plan Progress Report had been widely distributed for comment and had been endorsed by the Joint Management and Commissioning Group (Children's Services). Further guidance was awaited by the Scottish Executive which it was hoped would involve future progress reports.

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

14. RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (BIDS) - PROPOSALS FOR SECONDARY LEGISLATION

There was submitted [Report No 1096/06](#) by the Director of Corporate Services seeking approval for the provisional response made to the Scottish Executive's Consultation on Proposals for Secondary Legislation on Business Improvements Districts.

The Report indicated that the Executive's consultation paper set out proposals for provisions to be included in secondary legislation which would empower local non-domestic ratepayers to agree and pay a levy to provide enhanced or new services within a specific geographic area. A working group had been established to formulate a response to the consultation and, as the responses required to be returned to the Scottish Executive by Friday 4 August, a draft response (appended to the Report) had been submitted, subject to approval by this Committee.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Scottish Executive Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) Proposal for Secondary Legislation as appended to the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the appended response.

15. REVISED SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE - UPDATE

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 15 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1097A/06](#) by the Chief Executive updating members with regard to the implementation of Angus Council's Revised Senior Management Structure, incorporating the financial implications.

The Report indicated that the financial savings from the restructuring had marginally exceeded those reported to the Council in December 2005, when it had been estimated that a £450,000 net saving could be achieved each year. In line with the restructuring proposals, six Directors and five other Chief Officers had been granted early retirement/voluntary redundancy. These departures would achieve a total net saving of £460,000 each financial year from 2007 onwards.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that the second phase of the management restructure had been commenced;
- (ii) to note that all appointments had been made to the new management structure with one exception;
- (iii) to note that the new management structure had been in operation from 1 August 2006;
- (iv) to note the annual gross savings of £486,000 on the General Fund arising from the revised senior management structure and £29,000 on the Housing Revenue Account;
- (v) to note the annual net savings of £435,000 on the General Fund arising from the revised senior management structure and £25,000 on the Housing Revenue Account; and
- (vi) to approve the proposed funding package to meet the exit costs of the retiring Chief Officers.