

ANGUS COUNCIL

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

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

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors GEORGE NORRIE MBE and DAVID SELFRIDGE.

Councillor MURRAY, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mowatt declared an interest in item 11 as the Chair of the City of Brechin and Area Partnership.

Councillor King declared an interest in item 17 as a relative had a financial interest and indicated that he would not participate in discussion and voting.

2. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 October 2006](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Monitoring Group

The [minute of meeting of the Monitoring Group of 16 November 2006](#) was submitted and noted.

3. CAPITAL MONITORING - COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/2007

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 28 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1426/06](#) by the Director of Corporate Services advising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period 1 April to 31 October 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 2006/2007

With reference to Article 21 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 28 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1427/06](#) 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 30 September 2006.

The Report indicated that, under some cost heads, individual departmental actual expenditure was 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.

5. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET OUT-TURN 2006/2007

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 28 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1428/06](#) by the Director of Corporate Services giving an indication of the likely General Fund revenue outturn for the financial year 2006/2007.

The Report reflected ongoing monitoring of budget versus actual and showed that, at this stage, an overall under spend against a budget of £1,117,000 was projected.

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

6. 2007/2008 REVENUE BUDGET

With reference to Article 34 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 15 June 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1419/06](#) by the Director of Corporate Services advising the Committee of the latest position with regard to the preparation of the Chief Executive's 2007/2008 revenue budget and associated issues. Appended to the Report was a summary of the departmental provisional base budget for 2007/2008 as submitted to, and subsequently reviewed by, the Head of Finance.

The Committee agreed:-

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

7. BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 October 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1436/06](#) by the Chief Executive advising members of the progress against the Best Value Improvement Plan (BVIP) with information drawn, for the first time, from the Excelsis Performance Management System.

The Report indicated that the BVIP was one of the council's key corporate plans which officers were now monitoring through the Performance Management Excelsis System. The Appendix to the Report indicated that the majority of actions had been completed on time. Of the 126 actions in the Plan, 85 were complete and 41 were on target.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made against the Best Value Improvement Plan; and
- (ii) to refer the Report to the Monitoring Group.

8. FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO ANGUS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1437/06](#) by the Chief Executive informing members of the financial support provided to Angus community councils for the period 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2006, which had amounted to £20,380.

The Report indicated that Angus Council recognised the valuable contribution community councils had made, and would continue to make, to the development of the Angus community. It was hoped that the support provided demonstrated that Angus Council was committed to working with the Angus community councils.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

9. HUMAN RESOURCE STRATEGY - ANNUAL REPORT

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 February 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1441/06](#) by the Chief Executive advising members of the progress made and proposed revisions to the Human Resource Strategy Action Plan for the period up to 2007.

The Report indicated that all actions detailed in the Action Plan appended to the Report, scheduled for year one had been completed, with the exception of the preparation of guidelines on, and the provision of training in, cascade briefing, which was being carried forward for completion in year two. The Report also outlined the progress in relation to the actions scheduled for year two and that, aside from these actions, which were now aimed to be completed in year three, there were no proposed revisions to the Action Plan.

The Committee agreed to note the progress made in year two of the Human Resource Strategy's Action Plan.

10. QUALITY OF LIFE FUNDING - PROGRESS REPORT

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1438/06](#) by the Chief Executive providing an update on the use of Quality of Life resources allocated to Angus Council for the period 2006/2007.

The Report indicated that much progress had been made over the past year, notably the development of partnership working and definition of priorities and action planning for on-going and future activity. However, the Angus Community Planning Partnership recognised that an area for further development were the linkages between priorities and resources and this was being progressed as part of the new Angus Community Plan for 2006-2012.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made in utilising the £1.068million Quality of Life funding allocated to Angus Council for the year 2006/2007;
- (ii) to note the views of the Angus Community Planning Partnership; and
- (iii) to approve the re-allocation of the underspend relating to the Community Schools Mental Wellbeing Project.

11. 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 1439/06](#) by the Chief Executive providing members with an update on community planning activities in Angus for the period August to October 2006.

The Report detailed the activities which the Angus Community Planning Partnership had been engaged in along with the activities of the thematic partnership groups and an update of local community planning activities, incorporating a financial report by the Head of Finance on the management of community planning budgets, managed by Angus Council.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

12. CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK - DRAFT PARK PLAN AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING UPDATE

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1440/06](#) by the Chief Executive providing a proposed response to the Cairngorms National Park Authority on the revised draft Cairngorms National Park Plan - "Priorities for Action 2007 - 2012" and "Looking to 2030" as part of the statutory consultation process and in addition, providing an update in terms of current partnership working arrangements with the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

The Report detailed a proposed response which indicated that, while the revised draft of the Cairngorms National Park Plan contained reference to many of the suggestions made by Angus Council in its response to the public consultation, a number of points required a more explicit focus along with greater clarity in relation to supporting international workers, social enterprise and women's enterprise.

In conclusion, Angus Council welcomed the opportunity to contribute further to the draft Cairngorms National Park Plan, as well as develop ways in which partnership working could assist in the delivery of service delivery and ultimately, sustainable rural development across the area.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the submission of Report No 1440/06 to the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) as a further response to the statutory consultation on the draft Cairngorms National Park Plan - "Priorities for Action 2007 - 2012" and "Looking to 2030"; and
- (ii) to highlight the commitment of Angus Council and its partners to partnership working with the CNPA.

13. TAYSIDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY - TAYSIDE AREA PLAN (2007-2008)

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 14 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1361/06](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the publication of the Tayside Community Justice Authorities (CJA) area plan for 2007 – 2008.

The Report reminded members that the purpose of Community Justice Authorities was to achieve a more co-ordinated approach to delivering services for offenders at a local level, with the objective of reducing re-offending. One of the requirements of the CJA was to produce a local area plan to address re-offending, in consultation with key partners.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report and endorse the local action plan.

14. FUTURE EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS PROGRAMME IN LOWLANDS AND UPLANDS SCOTLAND 2007-2013

With reference to Article 25 of the minute of meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 23 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1410/06](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services seeking approval for the Director of Infrastructure Services in consultation with the Conveners of Infrastructure Services and Strategic Policy Committees to respond to the Scottish Executive Consultation on future EU Structural Fund Programmes.

The Report indicated that it was essential that Angus Council participated in the Structural Funds consultation to ensure the Council maximised the opportunities arising from reduced Structural Fund budgets for 2007-2013 and identified the opportunities to work in partnership to strengthen the Council's position. Given that the deadline for responses was 8 January 2007 which would not allow submission to Committee, it was proposed that the Director of Infrastructure Services in consultation with the Conveners of Infrastructure Services and Strategic Policy Committees submit the response and report this to the respective Committees for information.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to remit the Director of Infrastructure Services in consultation with the Conveners of Infrastructure Services and Strategic Policy Committees to respond to the Scottish Executive consultation on EU Structural Fund Programme on behalf of Angus Council.

15. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW DUNDEE & ANGUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Committee of 24 October 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1474/06](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services summarising details of the proposed agreement for Angus Council to become a platinum plus member of the new Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce.

The Report proposed the Council subscribe to platinum plus membership which required a £5,000 contribution for each of two financial year 2006 – 2008.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve a commitment of £5,000 for each of the two financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08 from the Infrastructure Services Economic Development Revenue Budget to become Platinum Plus members of the new Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce; and
- (ii) to approve the Head of Economic Development as the Council's representative on the new Chamber Board.

16. 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 1.

Councillor King having declared an interest at Article 1 above, left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

17. STANDING ORDER NUMBER 49: APPOINTMENT OF A RELATIVE OF A COUNCILLOR

There was submitted [Report No 1440/06](#) by the Director of Education seeking approval in accordance with Standing Order Number 49 to the appointment of a relative of an elected member to a teaching post in Montrose Academy.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of Standing Order 49;
- (ii) to note that the individual had been recommended for appointment to a post in Montrose Academy and the selection had been made entirely on the basis of merit;
- (iii) to note that the post itself would become vacant on 8 January 2007 and that, because the Education Committee did not now meet again until 11 January 2007 the approval of the Strategic Policy Committee was being sought for this appointment; and
- (iv) to formally approve the appointment.