

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 7 February 2006 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors ROB MURRAY, BILL ROBERTON, FRANK ELLIS, JACK GIBB, ALEX KING, IAN MACKINTOSH, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, JOY MOWATT, BOB MYLES, GEORGE NORRIE MBE, DAVID SELFRIDGE, JENNIFER SPEIRS, RICHARD SPEIRS and TERRY WOOD.

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 6 December 2005](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Monitoring Group

The [minute of meeting of the Monitoring Group of 19 January 2006](#) was submitted and noted.

3. CAPITAL MONITORING - COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/2006

With reference to Article 29 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 2 February 2006, there was submitted [Report No 184/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising members of the actual capital expenditure incurred for the period 1 April to 31 December 2005 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Report indicated that actual net expenditure totalled £8.596 million which equated to 60% of the net revised budget of £14.299 million for the year.

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

4. REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT

With reference to Article 30 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 2 February 2006, there was submitted [Report No 185/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising members of the actual 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, 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. REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2005/2006

With reference to Article 31 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 2 February 2006, 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 and reflecting ongoing monitoring of budget versus actual expenditure.

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

6. SERVICE PLAN PROGRESS/PERFORMANCE REPORT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 151/06](#) by the Chief Executive providing an overview against the priority actions identified in the Service Plan for 2005/2006 and additionally providing members with information against some key performance indicators for the service.

The Report indicated that the targets identified were in the main, progressing well. The work to begin to identify and analyse performance trends across some of the department's key services would help to plan and respond to issues as they arose. Where plans had slipped from original targets, action had been planned to ensure that focus on overall objectives was not lost.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress which was being made to implement the actions in the service plan, with particular attention paid to those actions where there was significant deviation from original plans, or there were points of particular interest;
- (ii) to note performance against key indicators identified across the sections of the department; and
- (iii) to instruct the Chief Executive to submit his Service Plan update 2006/2007 to this Committee in May 2006.

7. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS – PROGRESS REPORT

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 December 2004, there was submitted [Report No 228/06](#) by the Chief Executive updating members on progress to implement corporate performance management arrangements.

The Report indicated that the project to deliver a more systematic approach to corporate performance management was progressing on target, in line with the timescales set out in the Council's Best Value Improvement Plan. Over the coming months, the system would be rolled out across the Council with a target implementation date of April 2007, with further Reports to be submitted to future meetings of the Committee to keep members abreast of progress.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress which was being made to implement the Excelsis performance management system; and
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Executive to submit further progress reports on the implementation of corporate performance management arrangements as necessary to future meetings of the Committee.

8. BIG LOTTERY FUND - "INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES" – LAUNCH OF NEW FUNDING PROGRAMMES

There was submitted [Report No 229/06](#) by the Chief Executive informing the Committee on the recently issued manifesto from the Big Lottery Fund which outlined their new funding programmes for the next three years and highlighted the opportunities for Angus.

The Report indicated that the new funding programme would give the opportunity for Angus Council and other Angus organisations to access funding for a range of diverse projects across themes consistent with community planning. As programmes were announced, the process of applying an assessment would become clearer, opportunities identified and projects developed.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Big Lottery Fund's new funding programme and the options for potential projects in Angus.

9. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH 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 230/06](#) by the Chief Executive outlining proposed arrangements for improving electronic communications with Angus Community Councils.

The Report detailed proposals which would provide Community Councils with a choice in relation to what information they wished to receive and how they wished to receive it, while at the same time improving the two-way communication flow, as well as making communications more efficient and effective.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals to improve communications between Angus Council and Community Councils as outlined in Section 4 of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the additional contributions to be made to those Community Councils who wished to develop electronic communications with Angus Council;
- (iii) to make available £2,340 (one off) and £6,240 (recurring) for the purpose of improving electronic communications with Community Councils; and
- (iv) to instruct the appropriate officers to enter into discussions with Community Councils on the application of these proposals.

10. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH COMMUNITY COUNCILS (ASCC)

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 231/06](#) by the Chief Executive providing a proposed response to the discussion paper issued by the Scottish Executive, which formed part of their review of Community Councils and the Association of Community Councils (ASCC).

The Report indicated that a copy of the discussion paper had been issued to all Angus Council chief officers for comment and, given the links made to community planning, a copy had been issued to all Angus Community Planning Partners. Copies had also been sent separately to all Angus Council elected members, who had been given the option for their views to be incorporated in the Council's response or to send them directly to the Scottish Executive. The proposed draft response had been prepared incorporating replies from these consultees.

The Committee agreed that the comments set out in the Appendix to the Report be submitted to the Scottish Executive as Angus Council's response to their discussion paper, which formed part of the review of Community Councils and the Association of Community Councils (ASCC).

11. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE RURAL SERVICES PRIORITY AREAS PROGRAMME

There was submitted [Report No 232/06](#) by the Chief Executive providing a proposed response to the template issued by the Scottish Executive which formed part of their Rural Services Priority Areas (RSPA) programme.

The Report indicated that the proposed response had been formed paying cognisance to the research conducted by the Scottish Executive's community consultants and following discussion with members of the community, as well as relevant service managers. The Report detailed a number of suggested areas of priority identified within the Angus Rural Service Priority Area.

The Committee agreed that the activities set out in the Report be submitted to the Scottish Executive as Angus Community Planning Partnership's response, in the template supplied for Developing Local Target Setting for the Angus RSPA.

12. RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING

There was submitted [Report No 233/06](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport outlining the strategy SEPA would follow in implementing the new regime of River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) in Scotland and the impact this would have on Angus Council.

The Report indicated that as a designated "responsible body", Angus Council would have to have regard to the impact its policies and action would have on the water environment and ensure that they were integrated with the Tay River Basin Management Plan. The Council would also be invited to join the Tay Area Advisory Group which would be charged with producing a Tay Area Management Plan.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and that the Council would be approached to become a member of the Tay Area Advisory Group; and
- (ii) to note that Angus Council would require to have regard to the impact its policies and actions would have on the water environment through the discharge of its statutory and other functions and ensure that they were integrated with the Tay River Basin Management Plan.

The following matter was, on the determination of the Convener, dealt with as a matter of urgency, in order that no delay would result in the awarding of the contract.

13. APPROVAL OF TENDER FOR THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANGUS COUNCIL MAGAZINE FOR RESIDENTS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 18 December 2003, there was submitted [Report No 236/06](#) by the Chief Executive seeking homologation of the Chief Executive's decision to invite tenders for the production and distribution of the new council magazine for residents. The Report also outlined the result of the evaluation and selection process and recommended the appointment of a contractor.

The Report indicated that the new magazine would inform residents of and involve them in the services, plans, performance and activities of Angus Council. It would also reflect the activities, plans and values of the Angus Community Planning Partnership along with relevant community activity and achievement to promote civic pride.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to homologate the decision taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Convener of this Committee and the Acting Director of Finance to invite tenders for the production and distribution of the new council magazine for residents; and

- (ii) to approve the acceptance of the tender from Connect Communications in the sum of £25,978 for the production and distribution of two editions of the magazine during 2006.