

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 9 May 2006 at 4.00 pm.

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

**Apology:** An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor 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 21 March 2006](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

#### (b) Social Policy Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Social Policy Sub-Committee of 7 March 2006](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

#### (c) Special Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Special Sub-Committee on the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's Review of Electoral Arrangements of 10 April 2006](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX II**).

#### (d) Monitoring Group

The [minute of meeting of the Monitoring Group of 25 April 2006](#) was submitted and noted.

### 3. CAPITAL MONITORING - COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/2006

With reference to Article 18(b) of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 4 May 2006, there was submitted [Report No 569/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period from 1 April 2005 to 28 February 2006 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision 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 19(a) of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 4 May 2006, there was submitted [Report No 570/06](#) 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 2005 to 28 February 2006.

The Report indicated that, under some 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.

#### **5. REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2005/2006**

With reference to Article 19(b) of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 4 May 2006, there was submitted [Report No 571/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance giving an indication of the likely revenue outturn for the financial year 2005//2006.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note that requests had been made under the Council's budget virement flexibility scheme in respect of certain underspends, and had been reported to the meeting of Angus Council on 30 March 2006 (Report No 444/06 refers).

#### **6. SERVICE PLAN UPDATES 2006/2007**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 450/06](#) by the Chief Executive providing contextual background for submission of all departmental Service Plan updates for 2006/2007 and seeking approval of the Chief Executive's Departmental Service Plan update for 2006/2007.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Chief Executive's Departmental Service Plan update for 2006/2007; and
- (ii) to note that, in accordance with the Council's Best Value Improvement Plan, work was continuing to better integrate the budget and service planning cycles.

#### **7. POLICY STATEMENT ON THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR – PROGRESS REPORT**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 May 2005, there was submitted [Report No 573/06](#) by the Chief Executive informing members of the progress made in relation to the implementation of the Policy Statement on the Council's relationship with the Voluntary Sector.

The Council recognised that the voluntary sector was an essential resource in helping the Council to achieve their objectives and priorities and also played a key role in active citizenship, social inclusion and best value. The Policy Statement was a commitment to strengthen and develop this relationship.

Having heard the Convener express his appreciation of the work of both Mai Hearne, Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations and Garry Malone, Volunteer Centre Angus in the area of volunteering, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the progress made to date, in respect of the implementation of the Policy Statement on the Council's relationship with the Voluntary Sector, as outlined in Section 3 of the Report; and
- (iii) to approve the way forward as outlined in Section 4 of the Report.

## **8. VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY – PROGRESS REPORT**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 May 2005, there was submitted [Report No 574/06](#) by the Chief Executive informing members of the progress made in relation to the implementation of the Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy and Action Plan provided a Code of Practice for departments who worked with and/or engaged volunteers and also provided the policy framework on volunteering and volunteers.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to instruct the appropriate officers to raise awareness across the Council of the Millennium Volunteers Award Scheme as outlined in Section 3c of the Report; and
- (iii) to approve the way forward as outlined in Section 4 of the Report.

## **9. EMERGENCY PLANNING- PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 2005 – APRIL 2006**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 575/06](#) by the Chief Executive informing members of the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning Unit for the period April 2005 to March 2006.

The Report indicated that the role of the unit was to ensure that the Council met its statutory responsibilities and could respond effectively to an emergency or major incident that might occur.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) that the Chief Executive convey to the Emergency Planning staff the committee's appreciation of their hard work.

## **10. LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 March 2006, there was submitted [Report No 576/06](#) by the Chief Executive proposing revised arrangements for local community planning and in particular addressing lead officer support to local area partnerships.

The Report indicated that, given the proposed changes to the management structure of Angus Council, the new Neighbourhood Services Department had been identified as having a locus in local community planning, together with the Chief Executive's Department and the Community Learning and Development Service. It was proposed that the Lead Officer role be undertaken within Neighbourhood Services, at or above Senior Service Manager level.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to support the development of local community planning across Angus;
- (ii) to approve the provision of Lead Officer support for the developing role of local area partnerships across Angus from the Neighbourhood Services Department; and
- (iii) to instruct the Chief Executive to facilitate an event for Senior Officers in the Neighbourhood Services Department, Community Planning Officers and Community Learning and Development staff in relation to developing local community planning further.