

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 21 March 2006 at 4.00 pm.

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

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors ROB MURRAY, BILL ROBERTON, FRANK ELLIS, IAN MACKINTOSH and DAVID SELFRIDGE.

Councillor KING in the Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Convener and Vice Convener, the Committee agreed to appoint Councillor King as Convener for the meeting.

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 7 February 2006](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Angus Community Planning Partnership

The [minute of meeting of the Angus Community Planning Partnership of 25 January 2006](#) was submitted and noted.

3. CAPITAL MONITORING - COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/2006

With reference to Article 24 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 16 March 2006, there was submitted [Report No 375/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising members of the actual capital expenditure incurred for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 January 2006 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Report indicated that actual net expenditure totalled £9.695 million which equated to 68% 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 25 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 16 March 2006, there was submitted [Report No 376/06](#) 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 31 January 2006.

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 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 OUTTURN 2005/2006

With reference to Article 26 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 16 March 2006, there was submitted [Report No 377/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance giving an indication of the likely revenue outturn for the financial year 2005/2006 reflecting ongoing monitoring of budget versus actual expenditure.

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

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2006/2007

With reference to Article 27 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 16 March 2006, there was submitted [Report No 378/06](#) by the Acting Director of Finance advising members of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for Angus Council during 2006/2007.

The Report indicated that the production of a Treasury Management Strategy Statement for the forthcoming year was a requirement of the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in 2001. The Report also referred to the availability of the Treasury Management System document which covered detailed systems and procedures within the Treasury Management Section within the Finance Department.

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 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 383/06](#) by the Chief Executive providing members with an update on Community Planning activities in Angus for the period November 2005 to January 2006.

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

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

8. BRECHIN/ARBROATH HARBOUR REGENERATION RESEARCH

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 June 2005, there was submitted [Report No 427/06](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to investigate, on behalf of the Angus Community Planning Partnership, deprivation statistics in the Brechin and Arbroath Harbour datazones identified in the Angus Regeneration Outcome Agreement.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to commission research on behalf of the Angus Community Planning Partnership into deprivation statistics in the Brechin and Arbroath Harbour datazones identified in the Angus Regeneration Outcome Agreement;
- (ii) to note that the costs associated with this research were to be met by funding made available from Communities Scotland;
- (iii) to remit to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Law and Administration and the Acting Director of Finance, to tender the contract for consultancy and to appoint a preferred consultant, subject to funding being made available; and
- (iv) to note that the outcome of this process would be the subject of a future Report to this Committee.

9. **ANGUS CUSTOMER FIRST STRATEGY**

There was submitted [Report No 428/06](#) by the Chief Executive setting out details of the local implementation of the Customer First Programme.

The Report indicated that Customer First was a Scottish Executive sponsored programme developed in partnership with Scottish local authorities and under the direction of the Improvement Service. The Angus Customer First Strategy was based on much of the existing work done within Angus Council and reflected all aspects of the Executive's aims where they were relevant and prioritised to meet local needs.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that Angus Council had over some years been addressing most of the issues set out in the Scottish Executive's Customer First programme;
- (ii) to approve the Angus Customer First Strategy and Implementation Plan;
- (iii) to note that the Plan would be updated as further details emerged from the Scottish Executive regarding the timing of developments at a national level; and
- (iv) to appoint Councillor Gaul as the link representative for the Customer First Strategy.

10. **KEY CORPORATE PRIORITIES TO 2007 - ACTION PLAN**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 December 2005, there was submitted [Report No 429/06](#) by the Chief Executive setting out refined objectives for the key corporate priorities to ensure that the objectives had SMART targets, performance indicators, lead responsibilities noted against them and had regard to the outcomes of the budget process.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the key corporate priorities action plan detailing refined objectives for the key corporate priorities;
- (ii) to note that the actions had SMART targets, performance indicators and lead responsibilities noted against them; and
- (iii) to note that the performance management of the various elements of the objectives would be managed through the Council's developing Performance Management arrangements and regularly reported to Committee within that context.

11. **RACE EQUALITY SCHEME**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 19 December 2002, there was submitted [Report No 430/06](#) by the Chief Executive seeking formal endorsement of the Council's Race Equality Scheme 2005/2008.

The Report indicated that as a result of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Council had been required to produce a Race Equality Scheme by December 2002, covering the period 2002-2005. Subsequently, the Council was required to formally review this scheme by the end of 2005 and the Report now sought formal endorsement of the Council's revised scheme.

The Committee agreed to formally endorse the Council's Race Equality Scheme 2005-2008, as attached to the Report.

12. **THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) 2003**

There was submitted [Report No 431/06](#) by the Director of Law and Administration advising the Committee of the requirements placed upon the Council and the implications for elected members arising by virtue of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003.

The Report indicated that the Act provided that Scottish Ministers must maintain a list called "The Disqualified from Working with Children List" which had become operational on 10 January 2005. An individual would be referred to the list either by the Courts or by their employers where an individual worked in a childcare position and harmed a child or put a child at risk. The term "childcare position" extended to "a member of a committee, including joint committee, of a local authority (or any sub-committee thereof) which was concerned with the provision of education, accommodation, social services or health services to children."

The Report set out the proposed procedures for vetting elected members which would be undertaken by the Director of Law and Administration and would involve the processing of enhanced Disclosure Scotland applications. It was recommended that checks be carried out on all members of the Council.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the requirements placed upon the Council and elected members by the Act;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Law and Administration to arrange for disclosure checks on all elected members;
- (iii) to otherwise approve the proposed procedures for vetting elected members as outlined in Section 3 of the Report; and
- (iv) to note that guidance on the application of the Act would be prepared for elected members in accordance with COSLA guidance.

13. STRATEGIC PARTNERING FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT 2006-2009

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 16 March 2006, there was submitted [Report No 365/06](#) by the Director of Property Services advising members on the procedures adopted for selection, together with a recommendation to enter into a Strategic Partnering Framework Agreement with two contractors.

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

The following matters were, on the determination of the Convener, dealt with as matters of urgency, in order that a decision could be made timeously (Article 14) and in order that members be apprised of the position (Article 15).

14. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANNEL - ANGUS 50+ PROJECT

There was submitted [Report No 438/06](#) by the Chief Executive setting out a proposal to enter into an arrangement with the Local Government Channel to produce a feature on the Angus 50+ Project.

The Report indicated that a number of benefits would accrue to the Council as a consequence, such as the sharing of best practice and the promotion of Angus. It would also provide a high national profile at a time when the Scottish Executive was considering future funding arrangements.

The Committee agreed to approve the production of a feature on the Angus 50+ Project through the Local Government Channel.

15. INDUSTRIAL ACTION - 28 MARCH 2006

There was submitted [Report No 437/06](#) by the Chief Executive advising members of the intention of local government trade unions to take strike action on 28 March 2006 in support of the Rule of 85 in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Report indicated the background to the proposed industrial action and outlined the position in Angus.

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the Report.

16. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 27(2) that the public and press be excluded from the meeting 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 9.

17. BULK KITCHEN CONTRACT - PHASE 2 - TENDER

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of the Housing Committee of 2 March 2006, there was submitted [Report No 432/06](#) by the Director of Property Services seeking homologation of the decision not to invite a contractor for a housing contract for the reasons referred to in the Report.

The Committee agreed to homologate the decision by the Director of Property Services in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Acting Director of Finance, the Director of Housing, the Convener of Housing, the Convener of the Resources and Central Services and the Director of Law and Administration not to invite a contractor from the pool of contractors to tender for the Installation of Kitchens for Kitchen Bulk Procurement Programme - Phase 2.