

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 24 October 2006 at 4.00 pm.

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

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors JACK GIBB and Richard Speirs

Councillor MURRAY, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Robertson, Angus, Norrie and Selfridge declared an interest in item 12 as they had applied for a severance payment.

Councillor Mowatt declared an interest in item 2(b) as the Chair of the City of Brechin Partnership.

2. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 September 2006](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Angus Community Planning Partnership

The [minutes of meeting of the Angus Community Planning Partnership of 21 June and 19 September 2006](#) were submitted and noted.

(c) Monitoring Group

The [minute of meeting of the Monitoring Group of 28 September 2006](#) was submitted and noted.

3. CAPITAL MONITORING - COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/2007

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 19 October 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1241/06](#) by the Director of Corporate Services advising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period 1 April to 31 August 2006 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Report indicated that projected expenditure was proceeding according to plan with actual spend levels on a gross and net basis in line with previous year trends.

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 23 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 19 October 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1242/06](#) 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 August 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 department 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 24 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 19 October 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1243/06](#) by the Director of Corporate Services giving an indication of the likely revenue outturn for the financial year 2006/2007.

The Report indicated that, at this stage, an overall under spend against budget of £503,000 was projected.

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

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2005/2006

With reference to Article 25 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 19 October 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1244/06](#) by the Head of Finance advising members of the Treasury Management activities in respect of the Council for the financial year 2005/2006.

The Report indicated that production of the Treasury Management Annual Report was a requirement of the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

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

7. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT 2005/2006

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of 19 October 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1222/06](#), by the Head of Finance presenting the annual internal audit of the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

The Report indicated that, in recognition of the considerable work ongoing in relation to the new management structure of the Council at the time of the audit, work in relation to 2005/2006 had been restricted to the normal governance assurance statements and a follow up of the action plan of the full 2004/2005 governance audit. The follow up report attached to Report No 1222/06 provided the update on the action, together with revised dates for elements of slippage.

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

8. REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 18 May 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1287/06](#) by the Chief Executive/Parliamentary Returning Officer setting out proposals for the designation of polling districts and polling places within the area of Angus following the approval by the Scottish Ministers of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's Scheme of Representation under the Fourth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements.

The Report indicated that considerable work had been undertaken on a review of polling places in relation to the parliamentary polling districts. Whilst the aim had been to minimise the number of people who would have to use a different polling place as a result of these changes, a number of factors had resulted in a small percentage of the Angus electorate voting at a different polling station.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the provisional parliamentary polling districts as shown on the maps placed in the Members' Lounge;
- (ii) to note that the canvass for 2006/2007 undertaken by the Electoral Registration Officer would be on the basis of these proposed parliamentary polling districts;
- (iii) to designate the polling places within the area of Angus Council, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (iv) to note that elections for the Scottish Parliament and Angus Council in May 2007 would be held on the basis of these polling districts; and
- (v) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive as Parliamentary Returning Officer, in consultation with appropriate local members, to make any minor changes necessary in the run-up to the election.

9. SCOTLAND'S TARTAN DAY - EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF) APPLICATION FOR ROLL-OUT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of meeting of the Infrastructure Services Executive Sub-Committee of 19 January 2006, there was submitted [Joint Report No 1288/06](#) by the Chief Executive and the Director of Infrastructure Services requesting that the Committee note the results of the Feasibility Study and Business Plan carried out on the proposal to establish Scotland's Tartan Day as a national celebration and to approve the expenditure of £27,618 in 2006/2007 and £19,618 in 2007/2008 as match funding for a European Regional Development Fund application to appoint a Project Director to roll-out the celebration across Scotland.

The Report indicated that the Tartan Day project was important in raising the profile of Angus locally, nationally and internationally and in creating an increased sense of civic pride, in keeping with the Angus Ahead Campaign objectives. It would also allow Angus Council to lead on a national collaborative tourism project across Scotland and realise its 2020 vision of creating an internationally renowned celebration in Scotland, focussed on the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath in Angus.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the successful outcomes of Scotland's Tartan Day 2006 "Threads of Tartan" celebrations;
- (ii) to homologate the decision of the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Convener of the Infrastructure Services Committee, to extend the contract of Halogen Communications in respect of marketing and public relations consultancy work required for Tartan Day 2007, at a cost of £16,000 over 12 months in accordance with Regulation 16.3.2(b);
- (iii) to note the results of the Proof of Concept Feasibility Study carried out by Richard Gerald Associates Limited, in partnership with EventScotland, Scottish Enterprise and seven other local authorities;
- (iv) to note the response from the Scottish Executive regarding a request for match funding for the ERDF application to roll out Scotland's Tartan Day National Programme across the country;
- (v) to approve expenditure of £27,618 in 2006/2007 and £19,618 in 2007/2008 from the Economic Development Revenue Budget as match funding towards a European Regional Development Fund proposal for the temporary appointment of a Project Director based in Angus Council until March 2008 to lead the roll out of Scotland's Tartan Day across Scotland, while ensuring that Angus received prominence in any national marketing campaign.

10. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW DUNDEE AND ANGUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

There was submitted [Report No 1289/06](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services indicating that a new Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce organisation was being proposed and Angus Council had been asked whether it wished to become a Platinum member of the new organisation.

The Report indicated that it was considered important that the business community in Angus and Dundee should have a strong lobbying voice and have the capacity to benefit from the advantages associated with Chamber membership. By taking a Platinum membership for at least one year, Angus Council would be demonstrating its support for this new Dundee and Angus Chamber, which by its structure would better represent the businesses of Angus than its predecessor.

The Committee agreed that a contribution of £5,000 be made to the newly formed Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce, by agreeing to become a Platinum member of the organisation, subject to a Report on the full terms of the agreement being submitted to the appropriate Committee.

11. PUBLIC EXHIBITION AREA WITHIN THE ANGUS COUNCIL PAVILION AT THE 2007 OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

There was submitted [Report No 1290/06](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to invite tenders for the creation and installation of a public exhibition area within the Angus Council Pavilion at the Open Golf Championship at Carnoustie in July 2007.

The Report indicated that the Open Championship offered a unique opportunity to showcase Angus as an accessible and premier golfing destination to the target market of leisure golfers. The professional presentation of this valuable tourism product was vital if the promotion was to be successful and deliver an increase in the number of stay'n'play golfers to Angus. The appointment of a contractor would provide the Council with the expertise necessary to develop and deliver this important project.

The Committee agreed to invite tenders for the creation and installation of a public exhibition area within the Angus Council Pavilion at the Open Golf Championship at Carnoustie in July 2007.

12. LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 (SEVERANCE PAYMENTS) REGULATIONS 2006

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 14 September 2006, there was submitted [Report No 1291/06](#) by the Chief Executive advising the Council of the Councillors who had submitted applications for severance payments under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Severance Payments) Regulations 2006.

The Report indicated that applications had been received from the undernoted elected members:-

Councillor Ian Angus
 Councillor Jack Gibb
 Councillor John Henderson
 Councillor Stewart McGlynn
 Councillor George Norrie MBE
 Councillor Kathleen Ritchie
 Councillor Bill Robertson
 Councillor Ron Scrimgeour
 Councillor David Selfridge
 Councillor Richard Speirs

In accordance with the Regulations the applications would be checked to ensure that the required information had been provided and was considered to be accurate prior to submission to the Scottish Executive by the required date of 17 November 2007.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

13. BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 October 2005, there was submitted [Report No 1293/06](#) by the Chief Executive advising members of the progress on the Best Value Improvement Plan.

The Report indicated that the Plan was monitored on an ongoing basis with quarterly updates being reported to the Programme Monitoring Sub-Group and the Monitoring Group. The External Auditor's comments on the Plan would be incorporated in the Report to members on the 2005/06 Audit, which would be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 2 November 2006.

The Committee agreed to note the progress in reporting on the Best Value Improvement Plan actions.