

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE  
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

**13 JUNE 2002  
20 JUNE 2002**

**SUBJECT: PLANNING & TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SERVICE PLAN 2002/2003**

**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**

<p><b>Abstract: This report provides a summary of progress on the 2001/2002 Service Plan for the Department and advises members of the availability of the Service Plan for 2002/2003.</b></p>
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**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:-

1. notes the terms of this report and the considerable progress which has been made in relation to the 2001/2002 Service Plan;
2. agrees for its interest the terms and content of the Service Plan for 2002/2003, including priorities for the next three years.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The 2001/2002 Service Plan for the Department was agreed by the respective Committees in June 2001 (Report No. 713/01 refers). Progress on the 2001/2002 Service Plan has been monitored and a Service Plan prepared for 2002/2003. In looking to the future a three year planning framework is set out within which a more detailed programme is set out for the current year.
- 2.2 A copy of the full Service Plan for 2002/2003 has been placed in the Members' Lounge.

**3 PROGRESS**

- 3.1 Considerable progress has been made in taking forward the key actions which were included within the 2001/2002 Service Plan. In addition opportunities which have arisen have also been responded to successfully. Without wishing to repeat the detail in the Service Plan, the following is a summary of a range of key items which have been progressed:-
  - Following extensive joint working submission of the finalised Structure Plan for Dundee and Angus to Scottish Ministers.
  - Implementation of the adopted Angus Local Plan and commencement of the review and roll forward of the Local Plan.

- Publication of the Draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Tayside, and continuing contributions to the work of the Tay Estuary Forum and the Cairngorms Partnership.
- Development and implementation of Local Agenda 21 in Angus and review of the Environmental Strategy Action Plan.
- Public Transport Fund award secured for rail station improvements over the next three years including passenger access, car parking and interchange improvements at Montrose, Arbroath and Carnoustie.
- Programme of review and renewal of subsidised bus services including rural transport grant services; renewal of travel concession passes; organisation of school transport and publication of transport information guides and timetables, including development of ANITE computer database for local bus service timetables.
- Continuing support for Angus Rural Partnership and input to National Park proposals for the Cairngorms.
- Development and enhancement of UNIFORM computer system, widening access to data and contributing to the E-government strategy.
- Involvement with the 2001 Census and provision of information on population, housing stock, land availability, economic data, retail and town centre uses.
- Sustained high performance in development control, and continuing emphasis on customer care, including an increase in the total number of planning applications decided.
- Timeous processing of Building Warrants and Completion Certificates, together with dealing with a number of dangerous buildings throughout Angus to ensure the safety of the public, including following the storms of January 2002.
- Approval of proposals for the development of Monifieth Seafront following extensive public consultation.
- Completion and opening of the award winning Arbroath Abbey Visitor Reception Centre and successful marketing exercise for Arbroath Harbour leading to proposals for a joint public/private sector development.
- Implementation of the Paths for All Initiative with completion of the first phase of construction of the footpath network around Forfar, work underway on Phase 2 of Forfar and Phase 1 of a network around Arbroath and support to Angus Environmental Trust.
- Input to Doors Open Day; continuation of Angus Design Awards Scheme, successful implementation of the Montrose Town Scheme, and commencement of a five year Townscape Heritage Initiative for Arbroath.

- Work on Best Value Reviews of Projects, Housing Grants and Conservation together with implementation of previously agreed Improvement Plans, including the Department's Planning and Performance management arrangements incorporating a Best Value Achievement Report.
- Development of a Departmental Balanced Scorecard compatible with the corporate framework.

#### **4 FUTURE**

4.1 As with previous Service Plans, the 2002/2003 Plan seeks to combine challenging but achievable targets across the following six priority service areas:-

- Forward Planning;
- Transport Policy;
- Information;
- Development Control;
- Building Control;
- Projects and Conservation.

4.2 Priority Objectives for 2002/2003 and Future Plans for 2003/2005 outlined in the Service Plan build on and roll forward a wide range of current activities. These complement Departmental and Corporate priorities for improving performance, all of which are aimed at delivering quality services and implementing Best Value as part of the process of modernising Local Government.

#### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. Individual projects will require funding and where necessary Committee approval will be sought. Provisional budget forecasts are that finance will continue to be a constraining factor and accordingly the process of continuous improvement will have to be achieved within this context.

#### **6 CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Law & Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Staff throughout the various sections of the Department have also been closely involved in contributing toward the preparation of the Service Plan.

#### **7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no human rights issues arising from this report.

**8 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 Considerable progress has been made across all parts of the Department in successfully delivering a range of services in accordance with agreed priorities. The 2002/2003 Service Plan has been developed to help fulfil the aim of the Department which is to improve the quality of life by promoting the principles of sustainable development.

**NOTE**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

AA/CGR/IAL  
31 May 2002

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