

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 MAY 2002

“RENEWING LOCAL DEMOCRACY: THE NEXT STEPS”

SUMMARY

This report draws to attention the Scottish Executive's consultation document "Renewing Local Democracy: The Next Steps" on which comments are being sought by 31 July 2002.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee notes the contents of the consultative document and that the Chief Executive will be bringing forward a draft response for consideration in time to allow the Council's formal response to be submitted to the Scottish Executive by 31 July 2002 as requested.

2. THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

In his foreword to the consultation document "Renewing Local Democracy: The Next Steps" the Minister for Finance and Public Services says:

"This document looks at who councillors are, how they are rewarded, how they are elected and how they provide community leadership. It reaffirms the importance of local government in the Executive's overall policy framework, and aims to modernise and enhance the good work already carried out by local government."

Copies of the document have been circulated to all elected members.

It should be noted that the introduction to the document stresses that "Ministers are not planning a review of council boundaries or a reduction in the number of councils in the foreseeable future" and that "they do not wish to make a wholesale reduction in the number of councillors at this time."

Comments are being sought by 31 July 2002 and the Chief Executive will bring forward a draft response for consideration in time to meet that timescale.

In the meantime, the document's Executive Summary is attached to this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Directors of Finance and Law & Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

A B Watson
Chief Executive
April 2002

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.

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