

ANGUS COUNCIL

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING & TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

**9 OCTOBER 1997
16 OCTOBER 1997
23 OCTOBER 1997**

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS / SERVICE PLAN 1997/8

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Abstract: This Report provides an outline of progress on the first Business Plan for the Department and advises Members of the availability of the updated Plan for 1997/8.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee -

- a Notes the terms of this Report
- b Notes the progress which has been made in relation to the first Business Plan
- c agrees for its interest the Business Plan for 1997/8

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The first Business Plan for the Department was agreed by the respective Committees in May/June 1996. This document has been monitored and updated and a copy of the Business Plan for 1997/8 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 initial Business Plan and in addition opportunities which have arisen (eg. Challenge Fund) have been responded to successfully. Without wishing to repeat the detail in the Business Plan, the following is a summary of key items which have been progressed :

- considerable progress has been made on the Angus-wide Local Plan and a Consultative Draft will be available for Members consideration in October.
- performance indicators show that Angus has performed well in relation to dealing with planning applications expeditiously.
- a new IT system for development control/building control is being introduced.

- a major contribution was made to the Beachfront improvements at Montrose.
- proposals for town centre improvements in the High Street, Montrose were the subject of a large scale public consultation exercise
- proposals for the regeneration of Arbroath have been developed.
- a major consultancy study of Arbroath Abbey has been initiated in conjunction with Historic Scotland and SET.
- Challenge Funding was successfully obtained to respond to the closure of the MOD base at Edzell and has allowed the progression of proposals for including a Pictish/Orientation Centre at Brechin, construction of an advance factory at Montrose, acquisition of land and construction of industrial units at Brechin and an innovative training project.
- a major advance factory was constructed at Arbroath.
- the Brechin Business Centre project was completed and substantially let, as were the Brechin small industrial units and the Arbroath Business Centre was refurbished and there was an increased take up on units.
- the SEAFEST initiative was successfully launched .
- a completely new travel concession scheme was introduced.
- a public transport policy statement was published.
- assistance was given to support the introduction of low-floor buses in Montrose.
- a Rural Shops/Post Office grants scheme was introduced.
- Angus Environmental Trust established.
- ISO90001 and SCOTVEC accreditation achieved for Training Services.

4 FUTURE

- 4.1 For 1997/8, the main activities are essentially based upon rolling forward the previous Business Plan. In doing so, however, it has been recognised that there have been a number of important developments which will require to be taken into account. These include, Best Value, the Accounts Commission modules and the Council's policy on Customer Care.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this Report. Individual projects will require funding and where necessary Committee approval will be sought.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 In a relatively short period of time and against a backcloth of the disruption caused by Local Government re-organisation and tight financial restrictions, considerable progress has been made across all sectors of the Department.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and the Director of Law & Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

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/AMF

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning, Transport & Economic Development

