ABSTRACT
The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Scottish Government’s decision to withdraw funding for the Tayforth Learning Network and outline the impact of this decision for the Social Work and Health department.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS
It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:-

(i) notes the content of this report;
(ii) notes that Angus Council has withdrawn from ‘hosting’ the Tayforth Learning Network administrative arrangements.

2 BACKGROUND
On 17 January 2006, report 106/06 was presented to the Social Work and Health Committee outlining developments associated with the Tayforth Learning Network.

The Tayforth Learning Network was funded to enable partnerships to bring together stakeholders to share knowledge and expertise and to facilitate sharing of resources across the social services sector. Along with other networks they were to act as a catalyst for change, to meet the ongoing learning and development needs of the sector.

All four learning networks were informed by the Scottish Government that funding would cease on 31 March 2011 with the core functions of the networks being transferred to the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). This transition will take place over a three month period with the SSSC taking over in June 2011.

3 CURRENT POSITION
At the inception of Tayforth Learning Network, Angus Council Social Work and Health agreed to undertake the necessary administrative support to enable the network to undertake its functions.

Currently Tayforth employs two full time staff on a temporary contract basis, and has one seconded staff member whose secondment ends on 31 March 2011.

Office accommodation is leased and based at the Skatepark in Dundee.

Throughout the life of the network the management of staff and all financial responsibilities have been undertaken by officers of the social work and health department.
4 PROPOSALS

With the cessation of funding from the Scottish Government for Tayforth from 1 April 2011, arrangements have been put in place to wind down and ensure that the arrangements relating to the Tayforth Learning Network were terminated by the 31 March 2011.

The two full time temporary staff have been issued with redundancy letters terminating their employment from 31 March 2011. The seconded staff member reverted to their substantive post with Angus Council also from 31 March 2011.

Arrangements have been put in place to terminate the office lease.

Currently discussions are being held with the West of Scotland Learning Network which is a limited company and therefore has the capacity to continue trading from separate funding to take over the transitional funding arrangements of Tayforth until the SSSC takes over the core functions of all the learning networks.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report as arrangements were put in place when establishing Tayforth that all costs would be fully funded from the funding package made available through the Scottish Government. Any redundancy and lease termination costs will be met from within the funding from Scottish Government.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues contained in the report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

8 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

R PEAT
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

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.

SW&H/RP/PL
Name of Policy, Procedure or Report: TAYFORTH LEARNING NETWORK UPDATE

Lead Department/Service: Social work and Health

What is the aim of the policy, procedure or report?
To make members aware of the withdrawal of Scottish government to the Tayforth Learning Network

Is this a new or a review of an existing policy, procedure or report?
No

Screening Process
Has the policy, procedure or report already been assessed for its impact on people from different racial backgrounds, people of different genders and people with disabilities.
Yes x No

If Yes, unless there have been significant changes, no further action is required. Please sign and date immediately below and retain for reference.

If No, does the policy, procedure or report involve or have consequences for the people the council serves or employs?
Yes x No

If yes, proceed to Step 1 of the Full Impact Assessment on page 2.

If no, please state why not

If no, The policy, procedure or report is not relevant and no further action is required.

Please sign and date immediately and keep for reference

Name: Pam Linton
Signature: 
Date: 07 March 2011
## FULL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Step 1
Are there any statutory legal requirements affecting this policy, procedure or report? If so please describe.

| Step 1 | No |

### Step 2
What data/research is available to assess the likely impact of the policy, procedure or report.

| Step 2 | None |

### Step 3
Is there any reason to believe the policy, procedure or report could affect people differently due to their race or disability or gender? If so how?

| Race | No |
| Disability | No |
| Gender | No |

### Step 4
Is there evidence to suggest that any part of the policy, procedure or report could unlawfully discriminate against people? If so, how?

| Step 4 | No |

### Step 5
Can the policy, procedure or report be seen to favour one section of the community or deny opportunities to another?

| Yes | No |

If yes, please give details.
Step 6
Does the policy, procedure or report advance equality?
Yes ☐ No x ☐

Or restrict equality?
Yes ☐ No x ☐
If yes, give details

Step 7
Are there any other actions which could have been taken to enhance equality of opportunity?
If so please state
No

Step 8
Based on the work you have done, rate the level of relevance being allocated to this policy, procedure or report.
High ☐ Medium x ☐ Low ☐ Unknown ☐

Step 9
If during Steps 3 - 6 there has been an adverse impact identified, consider if any adverse impact can be justified.
Yes ☐ No x ☐
If yes please give details.

If no, consider alternative ways of delivering the policy, procedure or report to minimise negative impact or eliminate unlawful discrimination. Give details of the changes to be made to the policy, procedure or report.
**Step 10**
Do you need to carry out a further impact assessment?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, what actions do you need to take

**Step 11**
Make arrangements to monitor and review the impact assessment.

i) Who will be responsible for monitoring?

ii) How will it be monitored and analysed?

iii) How often will the policy, procedure or report be reviewed and by whom?

**Step 12**
Publish results of the Impact Assessment.

How will the results be recorded and reported?

**Completion of impact assessment:**

Please sign and date immediately and forward to your designated Policy Impact Assessment Co-ordinator.

Name: Pam Linton

Signature: __________________________

Date: __________________________

For additional information and advice please contact:
the Equalities Officer - Tel: 01307 476058 or E-mail: Equalities@angus.gov.uk