

Angus Council

POLICY STATEMENT ON THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ANGUS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

1 DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Community councils have the statutory role defined in Section 51 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

“to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for which these authorities are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable”.

Community councils engage in a wide range of activities – their own and other meetings, commenting on public policy, publicity and promotion, dealing with enquiries and surveys of opinions.

2 GENERAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

The following is the statement of principle about the Council's relationship with community councils:-

“As part of its commitment to customer/citizen focus, Angus Council is committed to working with community councils for the good of the Angus community and, in pursuit of its corporate and/or service objectives and priorities, Angus Council will work with and support all community councils within Angus.”

3 ROLE OF ANGUS COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Council recognises the need for mutual respect and a realistic understanding of each other's roles, therefore:-

- a Both the Council and community councils must be clear about each other's role and aims.
- b Both the Council and community councils must have realistic expectations of the levels of performance and support that they expect of each other.
- c Both the Council and community councils must positively support each other and establish close and constructive relations with each other, elected members and other organisations.

In relation to its role, Angus Council will:-

- i Consult with community councils on appropriate issues, and provide feedback. Listed below are some examples of consultation.
 - Local Plan
 - Active Citizenship Strategy
 - Social Inclusion Strategy
 - Community Plan Progress Report and Review
- ii Consult with community councils on planning applications.
- iii Actively encourage community councils to participate in the local community planning process.
- iv Provide clear guidance/training on assessing local issues (including needs assessment training, where appropriate), successful organisation, participation, and involvement.
- v Assist in the publicity and promotion of community council activity within Angus.
- vi Provide appropriate, cost effective training to community councillors. Angus Council officials will provide induction training as soon as practicable following community council elections.
- vii Provide an annual administrative grant, and ad hoc support, such as photocopying and the IT equipment loan procedure.
- viii Arrange bi-annual meetings to provide the opportunity to discuss collective issues, to exchange experiences, ideas, information and good practice as well as to provide a forum for discussion/training of Angus/Council-wide issues.
- ix Organise and conduct community council elections.
- x Communicate regularly with community councils. Where there is a significant development within a community council area every effort will be made to keep the community council informed on a regular basis.
- xi Provide information to community councils about the work it has been doing on behalf of their communities.

Angus Council wish community councils to:-

- i Observe the principles of conduct contained in the Code of Guidance for Community Councillors in accordance with the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.
- ii Actively seek to encourage local involvement.
- iii Liaise with community and voluntary organisations in their area.

- iv Effectively establish, and represent the views of the overall cross-section of the community.
- v Bring to attention issues within their area as appropriate.
- vi Actively participate in decentralisation and community planning arrangements.
- vii Liaise with local elected members.
- viii Publicise, and promote their role and activities, as a priority, within the local community.

and specifically in relation to community planning:-

- ix Be actively involved in the local community planning process.
- x Act as a sounding board for the Council, and its community planning partners, in the planning and decision making processes.
- xi Act as a sounding board for the Council and its community planning partners, in relation to service provision.

4 **CONTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

Angus Council, and its Community Planning Partners, recognise that community councils have made, and will continue to make a valuable contribution to the development of the Angus community, and also recognise that this contribution is very much dependant on individual members of a community council giving freely of their time and talents.

5 **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

As a best value service provider, Angus Council is committed to continuous improvement, which will also assist the Council to develop strategies that achieve clear benefits for all Angus citizens.

Angus Council will:-

- Report on an annual basis, the total financial support given to community councils
- Monitor and review the Policy Statement and Action Plan, and report progress on a regular basis
- Review the Community Council Policy Statement on a regular basis