

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 2 June 2009 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DAVID MAY, COLIN BROWN, IAIN GAUL, ALEX KING, IAN MACKINTOSH, JOHN RYMER, PETER MURPHY, ROBERT MYLES, HELEN OSWALD, RALPH PALMER, MARK SALMOND, ROBERT SPINK, SANDY WEST and JOHN WHYTE.

Councillor MAY, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors David Fairweather and Jim Millar with Councillors Colin Brown and John Rymer substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Myles declared an interest in item 5 as one of the Council's representatives on the Glenesk Trust. He indicated that he would be taking part in discussion and voting. Councillor Myles also declared an interest in items 11 and 14 as the Chairman of the Brechin Townscape Heritage Initiative. He indicated that he would be taking part in discussion and voting in both these items. Councillor Myles also declared an interest in item 18 as a farmer and landowner. He indicated that he would be taking part in discussion and voting with the exception of any question arising in respect of Question 11.

Councillor Mackintosh declared an interest in item 7 as a member of NFU Scotland. He indicated that he would be taking part in discussion and voting. Councillor Mackintosh also declared an interest in item 18 as a farmer and owner of agricultural land. He indicated that he would be taking part in discussion and voting.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 April 2009](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 22 May 2009](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

4. PARKING IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 April 2009, the Committee was advised that the Convener of Infrastructure Services and the Director of Infrastructure Services met the Tayside Police Eastern Divisional Commander and Traffic Division Inspector on Friday 8 May 2009 to discuss town centre parking.

Specific comments by Tayside Police were circulated and Chief Superintendent Campbell had confirmed that a second parking attendant had recently been appointed which would improve enforcement capacity. He had further confirmed that six weekly rotas with no regularity were applied to the wardens' areas of work, and that enforcement by the wardens and police officers was delivered in an appropriate and proportionate manner, and it was considered that with the recruitment of the second warden, performance would improve.

The Committee agreed to note the position.

5. ANGUS RURAL ENTERPRISE GRANT SCHEME

With reference to Article 25 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 March 2007, there was submitted [Report No 444/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services detailing the success of the Angus Rural Enterprise Grant Scheme 2007-2009 and seeking authority to continue to provide assistance to rural projects not otherwise supported by other funding schemes.

The Report indicated that the Angus Rural Enterprise Grant Scheme had made a significant contribution to the development of small rural business and community projects in Angus for the previous two financial years. The continuation of the scheme through the injection of £10,000 would further stimulate economic growth in the rural community and demonstrate the Council's support for the Scottish Government in its aim of ensuring that the Scottish rural community in the 21st century sustained a dynamic and competitive industry and would assist in achieving the Scottish Government's overarching purpose of sustainable economic growth.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the past success of the Angus Rural Enterprise Grant Scheme;
- (ii) to note the recent changes in financial support to the Scottish rural economy;
- (iii) to approve a further contribution of £10,000 from the Council to rural projects not otherwise supported by other funding schemes;
- (iv) to authorise the Head of Economic Development to review the eligibility criteria of the Angus Rural Enterprise Grant Scheme and to implement the changes, as detailed in the Report;
- (v) to approve the reduction in the upper grant limit to £2,500 and to grant authority to the Head of Economic Development to approve grants of up to £2,500 without further reference to this Committee; and
- (vi) to note that a further Report with recommendations to proceed with Angus Rural Enterprise Grant Schemes may be submitted to a future Committee cycle for the following financial year.

6. WORKING FOR FAMILIES RESULTS

With reference to Article 33 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 November 2008, there was submitted [Report No 445/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services advising the Committee of the results achieved by the Working for Families initiative.

The Report indicated that Working for Families had proven itself to be a valuable asset to the people of Angus. Although providing assistance to families would remain a core client group of the team, in the worsening economic climate, it was more important than ever that the strength of Working for Families continued to be built upon and, where possible, extended to other groups who would be facing new challenges. Work would continue with partner agencies across Angus to provide the best possible employability service in the difficult times and the new name of "Towards Employment" would assist to promote the new approach.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and the accompanying target outcomes Report, detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the change in name from the 'Working for Families' team to the 'Towards Employment' team.

7. RIVER SOUTH ESK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

With reference to Article 23 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 January 2009, there was submitted [Report No 446/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services outlining the progress made towards the production of a Catchment Management Plan (CMP) for the River South Esk.

The Report indicated that progress was well underway and currently on schedule to produce the CMP for the River South Esk by December 2009. The next stage in the process was for the Steering Group to meet in June 2009 to sign off the draft CMP so that it would be ready for stakeholder consultation over July and August. Following the close of the consultation period, revisions would be made during the autumn with a view to publishing and launching the final plan in December 2009.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the consultative draft River South Esk Catchment Management Plan; and
- (ii) to note the intention to submit a further report to allow the Committee to consider and approve the final Catchment Management Plan prior to its launch, which was planned for December 2009.

8. VALEDICTORY

At this stage in the meeting, the Convener paid tribute to Mr Iain Webster who was to retire from the Environmental and Consumer Protection Division at the end of June and who was attending his final meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee.

A number of members also paid tribute to Mr Webster, following which Mr Webster thanked the Committee for their kind words.

9. WASTE MANAGEMENT AT OUTDOOR EVENTS

There was submitted [Report No 447/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services outlining the requirement for a policy on providing waste management services at open air events.

The Report indicated that assistance was available to event organisers in terms of the provision of waste management services. It was widely acknowledged that due to an increase in the number and scale of events, waste management services had not been geared to meet the needs of an event as regards litter bins, recycling, waste collection and disposal. In recent years, there had been increasingly high profile events in Angus that required the Council to provide support in a variety of areas and there had often been the expectation that the Council would automatically deal with any waste generated by an event. The provision of litter bins for larger events, transportation of bins to and from an event, set up on site and collection and disposal of waste required a significant amount of Council resources, at the expense of other core waste services. It was therefore felt appropriate to clearly document what services the Council could and could not provide, and the responsibility an event organiser should take for managing the waste generated as a result of their event.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the proposals detailed in the Report as the basis for the provision of waste management services to outdoor events, as detailed in Section 4 of the Report;
- (iii) to note the financial implications of the proposals and to approve the level of charges as detailed in Section 5 of the Report, applicable in respect of commercial or business events; and
- (iv) to remit to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to adapt the policy proposals contained within the Report into a policy document for use in conjunction with the event information pack.

10. TRADING STANDARDS ACTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 August 2008, there was submitted [Report No 448/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services detailing possible enforcement action by the Council's Trading Standards service in relation to the protection of young persons from tobacco.

The Report indicated that, under the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, each local authority in Scotland had a statutory duty to consider, at least once a year, the extent to which it was appropriate for them to carry out a programme of enforcement action relating to the Act. The planned programme of action for 2009/2010, based on the Scottish Government's targets for tobacco control, was detailed in Section 3 of the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the programme of action, as detailed in the Report.

11. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION FUND

There was submitted [Report No 463/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services detailing options for bids by the Council for the Town Centre Regeneration Fund.

The Report indicated that a cross authority officer group had reviewed the guidance and current corporate projects and priorities to identify projects which could meet the deadlines and be delivered in the timescales without diverting resources from other priority services or projects that the Council had already agreed to take forward. Three potential projects/areas of work had been identified where it was considered that the available officer time could be targeted with the greatest likelihood of successful bids. A bid for funding for improving Monifieth Town Centre appeared to meet the criteria and further work was needed to develop wider options in Brechin and on CCTV in other town centres.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the submission of a bid of up to £250,000 for the improvement of Monifieth Town Centre;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Infrastructure Services to progress other options for further consideration by appropriate Committees;
- (iii) to note that advice would be available to properly constituted groups from the Council's Economic Development Division; and
- (iv) that, if necessary, any further bids be considered by an Executive Sub-Committee of this Committee over the summer recess due to the timescales involved.

12. MONIFIETH TOWN CENTRE, ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 January 2009, there was submitted [Report No 449/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services advising the Committee on the outcome of the public consultation undertaken on a range of environmental enhancements in Monifieth town centre and seeking authority to proceed with the preparation of more detailed proposals.

The Report indicated that the public consultation undertaken during February and March indicated general support for the range of traffic measures and environmental enhancements being proposed.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the public consultation undertaken on the range of environmental enhancements in Monifieth town centre;
- (ii) to approve the environmental enhancements for the town centre, as detailed in the Report;
- (iii) to approve further detailed designs and cost estimates being proposed; and
- (iv) to await a further report in due course.

13. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

With reference to Article 33 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 April 2009, there was submitted [Report No 450/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services advising the Committee of proposed changes to local bus service provision in the Angus area and seeking approval for the continuation of local bus service provision in the Glen Clova area from August 2009 following the outcome of the recent school conveyance re-tendering exercise.

The Report indicated that the local bus service network continued to be kept closely under review and where essential journeys were no longer provided then, subject to budget availability, contracted provision was procured.

Having heard from a number of members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to award a best value contract to Stagecoach Strathtay for the operation of an afternoon non-school days service from Kirriemuir to Glen Clova; and
- (ii) to note the service provisions proposed by Stagecoach Strathtay from 1 June and 6 July 2009.

14. BRECHIN THI UPDATE: ECONOMIC STRATEGY

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 November 2008, there was submitted [Report No 451/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services updating the Committee on the progress of the City of Brechin Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

The Report indicated that the THI was now in its second year of implementation and a condition of the THI contract was to publish an economic development strategy for the town of Brechin within 18 months of the commencement of the contract. Since the bid had been submitted in 2006 for partnership funding for the THI, the Council had developed, approved, adopted and published a number of key strategic measures which constituted an overarching strategy for both Angus and Brechin.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the third Report on the progress of the City of Brechin Townscape Heritage Initiative; and
- (ii) to approve the Summary Land Use and Economic Development Strategy for Brechin, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report, for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

15. PEER REVIEW: VERIFICATION OF WORK ON BUILDINGS IN WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS AN "INTEREST"

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 January 2009, there was submitted [Report No 452/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services updating the Committee on the successful outcome of the recently carried out peer review of building warrant applications in which the Council had an interest by members of the Tayside Building Standards Consortium.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the successful outcome of the peer review for year 2008/2009;
- (ii) to note the complimentary comments from the Building Standards Division on how the peer review had been carried out; and
- (iii) to authorise the Building Standards staff to participate in benchmarking with staff from Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils to agree common practices and procedures in areas of work identified in the peer review.

16. DESIGN QUALITY IN ANGUS

There was submitted Report No 454/09 by the Director of Infrastructure Services recommending the establishment of a Member/Officer Working Group in order to consider the matter of Design Quality in Angus.

The Report indicated that, in recent years, the Scottish Government had published a range of policy papers, design statements and planning advice notes on the subject of design in Scotland. The aim of such policies and advice was to help in improving the quality of design in the built environment in Scotland and to engender a sense of place in Scotland's towns. In order to move the design agenda forward, it had been suggested that a Member/Officer Working Group be established with the overall remit of considering and making recommendations on how design quality could be improved in Angus.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Scottish Government's continued interest in raising design quality in Scotland;
- (ii) to establish a Member/Officer Working Group in order for the Group to consider aspects of design quality in Angus and to make recommendations to the Committee as appropriate; and
- (iii) that the Member/Officer Working Group comprise of six members, three from the Angus Alliance, two from the Opposition and one Independent, namely:- Councillors Lumgair, Rymer, Myles, Gaul, Palmer and Spink.

17. DEVELOPMENT BRIEF FOR SOUTH OF GARDYNE STREET, FRIOCKHEIM

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of meeting of the special meeting of Angus Council of 16 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 455/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services detailing, for consultation purposes, the draft planning requirements that would guide the development of the site Fk2: Housing – South of Gardyne Street, which was allocated in the adopted Angus Local Plan Review for residential development.

The Report indicated that the preparation of a development brief for south of Gardyne Street, Friockheim would assist in the implementation of the Angus Local Plan Review proposal and would also guide developers towards a successful planning submission. Circulation of the draft brief would enable community involvement in the process and would seek endorsement of the planning principles and sites specific requirements and, once finalised, the development brief would be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for the site.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to approve the draft development brief, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report, as the basis for consultation; and
- (ii) to note that a further Report, detailing consultation responses together with a finalised brief, would be submitted for approval to a subsequent meeting of this Committee and the Development Standards Committee.

18. SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY – CONSULTATION DRAFT

There was submitted [Report No 456/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services commenting on and providing a suggested basis for the Council's response to the draft Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). When finalised, the SPP would replace the existing range of 19 policy subjects contained in National Planning Policy Guidelines and Scottish Planning Policy which had been published over the last 30 years.

The Report indicated that the consultation draft of the SPP presented a consolidated version of existing national planning policy in a manner that was less daunting for the reader. The summary or omission of advice and background information might, however, provide greater scope for disagreement in relation to development planning, development management and enforcement and, notwithstanding this, the removal of background information and detailed advice was generally considered acceptable given the importance attached to the development plan which could provide the necessary local context to national policy imperatives.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the consultation draft Scottish Planning Policy document which consolidated and set out the proposed national policy on a range of planning matters; and
- (ii) to approve the Report as the basis for the Council's suggested response for submission to the Scottish Government.

19. TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ORDERS

There was submitted and noted [Report No 457/09](#) by the Director of Corporate Services advising that, at the request of the Head of Roads, two Temporary Traffic Orders had been made, as detailed in the Report.

20. TENDERS ACCEPTED: 1 APRIL 2008 – 31 MARCH 2009

With reference to Article 19 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 June 2008, there was submitted [Report No 458/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services detailing tenders accepted on behalf of the Council under delegated authority by the Head of Roads during the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

The Committee agreed to note the details of the tenders accepted on behalf of the Council by the Head of Roads during the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

21. PROPOSED JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT A933 FORFAR ROAD/KIRKTON ROAD, ARBROATH

There was submitted [Report No 459/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services seeking approval to a proposed improvement at the junction of the A933 Forfar Road and Kirkton Road, Arbroath.

The Report indicated that concerns had been raised regarding traffic queuing and associated delays at the junction of the Forfar Road with Kirkton Road, Arbroath at certain times of the day. Delays frequently occurred at the junction at peak times and this could be resolved by the provision of a left turn lane in Kirkton Road.

Having heard from Councillor King regarding similar delays for traffic turning right into Kirkton Road, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the implementation of a junction improvement at the A933 Forfar Road/Kirkton Road, Arbroath;
- (ii) to approve the recommended works at an estimated cost of £45,000 to be funded from the Traffic Calming Road Safety Capital Budget 2009/2010; and
- (iii) to note that the Head of Roads would monitor the traffic flow for vehicles turning right into Kirkton Road with a view to bringing back a further Report to this Committee in the future should it be required.

22. CASUALTY REDUCTION TARGETS UPDATE & ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION PROGRAMME PREPARATION & IMPLEMENTATION

With reference to Article 25 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 June 2008, there was submitted [Report No 460/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services outlining the current road accident situation in Angus and the progress made towards the National Government's casualty reduction targets, and summarising the progress of work towards the preparation and implementation of an Accident Investigation Programme for Angus Council roads.

The Report indicated that the anticipated accident reduction schemes would be monitored and the Accident Investigation Programme works programme would be updated on an annual basis allowing for new cluster sites to be identified and existing sites removed from the list where the remedial measures undertaken had proven to be successful in reducing accidents.

Having heard members welcome a number of the proposals contained within the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress towards the national 2010 casualty reduction targets; and
- (ii) to note the remedial proposals at those accident locations previously identified.

23. DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009

There was submitted [Report No 461/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services summarising the staffing and financial implications for local roads authorities arising from the new Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009.

The Report indicated that the Act would come into force on 1 October 2009 and would make all permanent on-street disabled persons' parking places and, with the agreement of private landowners, all off-street disabled persons' parking places, legally enforceable. The Report outlined the changes required to the management of disabled parking provision under the Act and highlighted the potential resource implications for local roads authorities.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note that a further Report would be brought forward describing the associated financial implications once a detailed investigation into the impact of the new Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 had been completed.

24. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 27(2), that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraphs 8 and 9.

25. A935 MONTROSE – BRECHIN ROUTE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

With reference to Article 45 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 August 2008, there was submitted [Report No 462/09](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services outlining progress on the preferred options for the bend realignments on the A935 Montrose to Brechin Road as part of the route action plan.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations, as detailed in the Report.