

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 1 April 2003 at 4.00pm.

Present: Councillors SHEENA WELSH, STEWART McGLYNN, IAN ANGUS, BILL CROWE, FRANK ELLIS, ALISTAIR GRAY, JOHN HENDERSON, IAN MACKINTOSH, JOY MOWATT, PETER MURPHY, ROBERT MYLES, PETER NIELD and BILL ROBERTON.

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee agreed to note that no declarations of interest were made.

2. 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 item 2 below, so as to avoid the possible disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraphs 6, 8, 9 and 10.

3. VEHICLE AND PLANT TENDERS

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 18 February 2003, there was submitted [Report No 411/03](#) by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection detailing tenders received for various vehicles and plant.

The Committee agreed to note the tenders received in respect of vehicles and plant individually valued up to £30,000, for which the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection had delegated authority to act in terms of Section 16 of the Financial Regulations, and his acceptance of the tenders for:-

- (i) the supply by operating lease of two Iveco Daily Vans from A M Phillip, Muirymouth, Forfar at a cost of £16,250 each;
- (ii) the supply by operating lease of two mini bus conversions from Aitken Ltd, Grangemouth at a cost of £12,325 each;
- (iii) the supply by contract hire of two Ford Transit Connect from Keyfleets, Stockton on Tees at a cost of £3,144.28 each per year for three years;
- (iv) the supply by contract hire of four Ford Transit Connect SWB from Lex Vehicle Leasing, Stirling at a cost of £2785.20 each per year for three years;
- (v) the supply by contract hire of 22 Renault Clio cars from Keyfleets, Stockton on Tees at a cost of £2,007.96 each per year for three years;
- (vi) the extension of the tender reported to Committee on 18 February 2003 (Report No 212/03 refers) to include the supply by contract hire of a further 12 Vauxhall Astra vans for the price quoted at tender from Keyfleets, Stockton on Tees at a cost of £2,169.12 each per year for three years;
- (vii) the purchase of one 4"/100mm water pump from SLD Pumps Limited, Broughty Ferry at a cost of £11,849.24.

4. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 18 February 2003](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

5. NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY WEEK

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 February 2002, there was submitted [Report No 412/03](#) by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection advising the Committee that National Food Safety Week 2003 would be held on 9-15 June. It would focus on raising awareness of the importance of hand washing and highlight that hands that had not been washed properly could easily spread germs which were invisible to the eye, especially when hands were wet or damp. The staff of the Environmental and Consumer Protection Service would be using the material produced by Foodlink such as leaflets, booklets, posters, etc to publicise the above theme throughout Angus during that week.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report and expressed its support for this initiative.

6. LANDFILL TAX CREDIT SCHEME

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 January 2002, there was submitted [Report No 413/03](#) by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection advising the Committee that the Government had decided to reform the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme which currently allowed the Council to divert part of the landfill tax into the Angus Environmental Trust.

The Report indicated that, for five years, the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme had allowed payment of proportions of the landfill tax liability of the Council into the Angus Environmental Trust. The Trust had supported many local initiatives and schemes of environmental improvement. Changes to the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme had been announced in the Chancellor's November 2002 Pre-Budget Statement and the current scheme was being wound up within transitional arrangements which allowed carry over of funding into 2003/2004 to complete projects.

The Government intended to issue revisions to the rules for operation of the present Landfill Tax Credit Scheme and these would be announced later in the year. Landfill operators would then be able to donate 6.5% of their annual tax liability to local environmental projects. It was proposed that this payment in Angus be made to the Angus Environmental Trust.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the termination of the existing Landfill Tax Credit Scheme; and
- (ii) to approve the continuation, by Angus Council, of making the maximum payment permissible from landfill tax to the Angus Environmental Trust in terms of the transitional arrangements and the new regulations which were likely to permit 6.5% of the total landfill tax liability to be paid into the Trust.

7. TOBACCO ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

There was submitted [Report No 414/03](#) by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection advising the Committee of new duties for the Department of Environmental and Consumer Protection arising from the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002 and seeking authorisation for Trading Standards Officers and Trading Standards Enforcement Officers to carry out enforcement duties placed upon Angus Council under the Act.

The Report indicated that the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002 had come into effect on 14 February 2003. From that date, the Act banned tobacco advertising on billboards and in the press and magazines and was one of the Government's key moves in its drive to reduce smoking-related deaths and diseases. From the same date, tobacco sponsorship was banned except in those categories specified in Regulations which could continue on until 1 October 2006.

The Report concluded that, although this was a new burden on the Department, there was no known additional funding being made available from the Government. It therefore remained to be seen what impact this would have on departmental resources. A further Report would be submitted to Committee if it became clear that, in future, costs could not be contained within the Revenue Budget.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to authorise Trading Standards Officers and Trading Standards Enforcement Officers to carry out enforcement duties placed upon Angus Council under the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002.

8. END OF LIFE FRIDGES

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 18 February 2003, there were submitted copy letters from the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection and the Chairman of the COSLA Waste Management Task Force, to Ross Finnie MSP, Scottish Executive Minister for Environment and Rural Development, on the issue of funding for disposal of end of life fridges. There was also tabled copy letter received on 27 March 2003 from the Minister indicating that he had considered the case for supplementing the local authority grant, but had concluded that the funding he had already announced was a fair reflection of the extra burden arising from Regulation 2037/2000.

Following a full discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the letters written to Minister Ross Finnie MSP and his subsequent reply; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection to write to the relevant Minister following the Scottish Parliament elections in May, in the same terms as outlined in Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 18 February 2003.

9. VALEDICTORY REMARKS

As this was the last meeting of this Committee to be held before the elections, the Convener thanked all the officers for the support which she and the Committee had received over the last four years.