

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Wednesday 29 September 2004 at 4.00pm.

**Present:** Provost BILL MIDDLETON, Councillors FRANK ELLIS, JACK GIBB, ALEX KING, DAVID LUMGAIR, IAN MACKINTOSH, STEWART McGLYNN, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, JOY MOWATT, PETER MURPHY, ROB MURRAY, ROBERT MYLES, PETER NIELD, HELEN OSWALD, KITTY RITCHIE, BILL ROBERTON, MARK SALMOND, RON SCRIMGEOUR, DAVID SELFRIDGE, JENNIFER SPEIRS, RICHARD SPEIRS, SHEENA WELSH and TERRY WOOD.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors IAN GAUL, RUTH LESLIE MELVILLE MBE and GEORGE NORRIE MBE.

Provost BILL MIDDLETON, in the Chair.

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Council resolved to note that no declarations of interest were made.

### 2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

There was submitted [letter dated 6 September 2004 from Mr Bob Smith](#), Secretary, Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland which indicated that the Commission were now required to conduct a review of electoral arrangements within Council areas and to report with recommendations to Scottish Ministers. Following the Reports of McIntosh and Kerley, the Commission had considered how multi-member wards might be designed and what could be done to better reflect natural communities. It was thought that the first step in considering how wards might be constructed would be to identify the possible extent of perceived natural communities. It was also thought that using the concept of "community focus" to underpin the design of wards might offer more stable ward boundaries in the longer term. Overall, the Commission believed that the proposed methodology offered scope for flexibility in the design of revised wards. Given the importance of community focus, the Commission had suggested that it would be of considerable assistance if the Council could identify and map what it considered to be the boundaries between communities within its area. Appended to the letter was a copy of the Direction under Section 18 (2a) of the Local Government (Scotland) 1973 which set out the process of consultation along with details of the review timetable.

Mr Kenneth Macdonald, Commissioner and Mr Bob Smith, Secretary gave a joint presentation to the Council which covered the following areas.

- an outline of the Commission;
- the statutory basis for the review;
- the proposed methodology;
- community focus;
- information requirement: the Commission and the Councils;
- the material for consultations;
- timescale for the review

Following a number of questions by both members and officers, the Council resolved to note the contents of the letter and appended Direction and agreed that the relevant officers progress the necessary preparation work in terms of Stage 1 of the Review timetable.