

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 29 April 2004 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DAVID SELFRIDGE, KITTY RITCHIE, IAN ANGUS, FRANK ELLIS, JACK GIBB, ALEX KING, IAN MACKINTOSH, STEWART McGLYNN, JOY MOWATT, ROBERT MYLES, PETER NIELD, MARK SALMOND, RON SCRIMGEOUR, RICHARD SPEIRS and ROBERT SPINK.

Councillor SELFRIDGE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ritchie declared an interest in item 32 as a Director of the Business Gateway Angus.

Councillor Mackintosh declared an interest in item 16 as a member of the Farming and Wild Life Advisory Group.

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 items 3 - 10 below, so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraphs 4, 6, 8 and 10.

3. ARBROATH HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 November 2003, there was submitted [Report No 511/04](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport updating members on the efforts to secure a joint public/private sector development at Arbroath Harbour and highlighting a number of issues in relation to the proposed development.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the current position regarding the proposed developments at Arbroath Harbour as outlined in the Report;
- (ii) to note the likelihood of additional Council funding being required for the project and accordingly to reaffirm its commitment to the project; and
- (iii) to await a further report on progress in early course.

4. RURAL SHOPS AND COMMUNITY POST OFFICE CONVERSION GRANT SCHEME - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM WESTMUIR SHOPPIE AND POST OFFICE

There was submitted [Report No 512/04](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising that the proprietor of G & I's Westmuir Shoppie and Post Office had applied for grant assistance to undertake improvements to the premises. The Report indicated that the Post Office and shop at Westmuir was the only shop available to the community and served a function well beyond the provision of goods and services.

The Committee agreed to offer a grant as outlined in the Report to the Shop and Post Office at Westmuir under the Rural Shops and Community Post Office Conversion Grant Scheme.

5. BALTIC STREET CAR PARK, MONTROSE – REPAIRS TO BOUNDARY WALLS

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the above matter to allow further consultation.

6. COMPETITIVE TENDERING - BEST VALUE REGIME 2004

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Roads Committee of 23 November 2000, there was submitted [Report No 514/04](#) by the Director of Roads detailing the existing and proposed financial thresholds for awarding Roads Department works directly to Tayside Contracts, without competitive tendering, in order to fully utilise the minimum workforce required for winter maintenance operations.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the increase in the financial threshold for awarding work directly to Tayside Contracts without competitive tendering to £100,000; and
- (ii) to approve the Best Value Regime detailed in Appendix B to the Report.

7. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE STANDING LISTS OF CONTRACTORS FOR CONSTRUCTION, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS UNDER £200,000

With reference to Article 21 of the minute of meeting of the Roads Committee of 22 November 2001, there was submitted [Report No 516/04](#) by the Director of Roads recommending the deletion of two existing contractors from the Ground Investigation category (C6) of the current Standing Lists of Contractors for Construction, Civil Engineering and Road Maintenance as a result of a consolidation exercise by their parent company. The outcome of the consolidation exercise would require a new contractor to be added to the Ground Investigation category of the current Standing Lists for work up to a maximum of £200,000.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the contractor listed in Appendix 1 for inclusion on the Standing Lists of Contractors for Ground Investigation (C6) work up to a maximum contract value of £200,000; and
- (ii) to approve the deletion of the contractors listed in Appendix 2 from the Ground Investigation category (C6) of the current Standing Lists of Contractors for Construction, Civil Engineering and Roads Maintenance Contracts under £200,000.

8. MONTROSE HARBOUR MARKET INVESTIGATION STUDY

There was submitted [Report No 517/04](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to undertake an economic impact and market development study in conjunction with Scottish Enterprise Tayside to investigate future development options for Montrose Harbour.

The Report indicated that Montrose Harbour played an important role in the economy of Angus and it was hoped that an economic impact and market investigation study would assist in determining a long-term role for the Harbour.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Economic Development Manager to submit an application for Leader+ funding to undertake an economic impact and market development study for Montrose Harbour: and
- (ii) to contribute up to £10,000 or one quarter of the cost of the study, whichever was the lesser, subject to this contribution being matched by Scottish Enterprise Tayside and the study attracting Leader+ funding.

9. NEW LEASES – ANGUS COUNCIL BUSINESS PROPERTY

There was submitted [Report No 518/04](#) by the Chief Executive recording new leases concluded by the Chief Executive under delegated powers.

The Committee agreed to note the new leases as outlined in the Appendix to the Report.

10. MARKETING OF ANGUS PROPERTY TO THE CONTACT CENTRE INDUSTRY

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004, there was submitted [Report No 519/04](#) by the Chief Executive advising that preliminary work had been carried out on devising a marketing plan for three business units in Angus for Contact Centre facilities and seeking approval to progress this with the completion of the plan and the appointment of a consultant to carry it out.

The Report indicated that the contact centre industry was still growing and provided an opportunity for Angus to reduce its economic dependence on existing industrial sectors such as manufacturing, fishing and agriculture, all of which were declining or under pressure. The existence of three properties dedicated to this industry, plus excellent demographic information on candidates for employment, afforded an excellent opportunity to increase employment in the service sector.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the continued focus on contact centre inward investment as a key part of the Council's Economic Development Strategy;
- (ii) to authorise expenditure of an additional £3,000 per annum for marketing Angus to the contact centre sector as part of a broader partnership funding package;
- (iii) to remit to the Chief Executive to invite four marketing consultants to submit proposals for a marketing campaign; and
- (iv) to delegate to the Economic Development Manger, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Director of Finance, to interview and appoint the successful consultant to support this promotional initiative.

11. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Special Committee - Company Change Notices A92 Project

The [minute of meeting of the Special Committee on Company Change Notices](#) for the A92 Project of 18 March 2004 was submitted and noted.

(c) Executive Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the [Executive Sub-Committee of 25 March 2004](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(d) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the [Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 26 March 2004](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX II**).

12. BRECHIN ROAD, KIRRIEMUIR - ASSESSMENT FOR CONSERVATION AREA STATUS

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Development Control Committee of 15 April 2004, there was submitted [Report No 475/04](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising that a Character Appraisal of Brechin Road, Kirriemuir had been undertaken as the preliminary stage in assessing whether the area merited Conservation Area status and proposing to undertake consultation on it.

Councillor MackIntosh suggested that the Director should consider including the Area Forum in the consultation process.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed that the Director of Planning and Transport be remitted to undertake public consultation on the desirability of designating part of Brechin Road, Kirriemuir as a Conservation Area under the meaning of Section 61 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 and to report the findings back to the Committee.

13. CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO DRAFT GUIDANCE ON PART I LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 June 2003, there was submitted [Report No 520/04](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport advising that the Scottish Executive had published draft guidance for Local Authorities and National Park Authorities on Part I of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and recommending the Council's response to the document.

The Report indicated that publication of draft guidance on duties and powers of Local Authorities was a further major step towards bringing into effect Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, towards the end of 2004, once the Scottish Outdoor Access Code had been approved by the Scottish Parliament. The draft guidance contained a substantial body of material, much of which was helpful. However, a key element of the guidance, which would benefit from further clarification, concerned sections on duties and powers relating to core paths.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the draft guidance on Part I of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, including duties and powers of Local Authorities summarised in Appendix I to the Report; and
- (ii) to approve Report 520/04 as the basis for the Council's response to the Scottish Executive, including concern regarding funding the core path network, together with detailed comment on duties and powers as set out in Appendix 2 to the Report.

14. DRAFT SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY (SPP) - PLANNING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

There was submitted [Report No 521/04](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport commenting on, and providing a suggested basis for the Council's response to, draft guidance on Planning for Rural Development contained in the Consultative Draft Scottish Planning Policy which, when finalised, would replace the existing National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG) 15 Rural Development.

The Report indicated that rural areas in Scotland were continuing to evolve in response to a range of influences and planning policy needed to be responsive to the changing requirements and set out opportunities for new development. Broad guidance at national level also needed to be capable of being tailored to each local authority area taking into account the different economic, social and environmental characteristics of that area.

The Report concluded that much of the basis of the guidance set out in the draft SPP was already contained in the adopted Angus Local Plan. The Council's use of rural typologies in support for rural business, tourism and a range of opportunity for housing was in support of the principles set out in the draft SPP. A key area of fine tuning was housing in the countryside and this was currently being addressed through the Angus Local Plan Review.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the draft SPP setting national policy on Planning for Rural Development and approve Report No 521/04 as the basis for the Council's response to the Scottish Executive; and
- (ii) that when finalised, the SPP on Planning for Rural Development be taken into account in preparation of land use planning policy for Angus and as a material consideration in development control casework.

15. POPULATION PROJECTIONS

There was submitted [Report No 522/04](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport providing details of 2002-based population projections recently released by the General Register Office for Scotland and highlighting demographic information and issues for Angus and for the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan area.

The Report indicated that the projected fall in population of 9,902 would result in a total population figure of 98,228 in Angus by 2018. Changes to the age structure over this period broadly reflected national change but was more pronounced particularly in the 25 - 44 and over 60 age groups. Components of change suggested less migration and greater natural change in Angus than the national projection. Overall, the population was projected to fall more significantly in the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan area (-12%) and in Angus (-9%) than the Scottish total (-2%) over the period 2002 - 2018.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that the 2002 - based General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) population projections pointed to a decline in population between 2002 - 2018 of:-
 - 119,528 in Scotland;
 - 9,902 in Angus; and
 - 30,576 in the Dundee and Angus Structure Area Plan.
- (ii) to note that these revised population projections, together with revised households projections and other demographic information from the 2001 Census, would be taken into account as appropriate for forward planning purposes, including the review of the Angus Local Plan.

16. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT - ANGUS FARMING & WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Planning and Transport Policy Committee of 20 January 2003, there was submitted [Report No 523/04](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport on a revised Service Level Agreement between Angus Council and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG).

The Report indicated that the Angus FWAG had a key role in improving the environment of Angus. In particular, it provided a valuable service in both the preparation and delivery of the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The revision and update of the Service Level Agreement would further target efforts towards achieving this end.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the successful progress made on delivering outputs specified in the Service Level Agreement with FWAG for 2003/2004;
- (ii) to approve the updated Service Level Agreement for 2004/2005 and authorise the Director of Law and Administration to enter into the revised Service Level Agreement; and
- (iii) to remit to the Director of Planning and Transport to monitor compliance with the terms of the Agreement.

17. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 January 2004, there was submitted [Report No 524/04](#) by the Director of Planning and Transport detailing the use of capital expenditure secured from the Scottish Executive grant allocation to Angus Council for public transport and advising of expenditure at Carnoustie Rail Station as part of the Angus Rail Interchange Project, and of public transport issues affecting Angus.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Executive funding award had enabled significant capital expenditure on various items of transport infrastructure to be undertaken at Arbroath Bus

Station and throughout Angus. The provision of CCTV at Arbroath Bus Station and video cameras on school conveyance services, funded from part of the Scottish Executive grant funding, would improve both passenger and driver safety. Similar benefits would be achieved through the installation of CCTV at Carnoustie Rail Station funded from part of the Angus Rail Interchange project.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the expenditure undertaken which fully utilised the Scottish Executive grant allocation to Angus Council in respect of public transport;
- (ii) to note completion of the installation of CCTV and Customer Information Audio Help Points at Carnoustie Railway Station as part of the Angus Rail Interchange project;
- (iii) to note the Concessionary Travel Agreement secured with ScotRail until the end of their current rail franchise;
- (iv) to note the proposed Scottish Citylink summer service level provision; and
- (v) to note the Virgin Crosscountry Train timetable proposals for winter 2004/2005.

18. NEW STREET NAMES

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Roads Committee of 17 April 2003, there was submitted [Report No 525/04](#) by the Director of Roads informing the Committee of new street names which had been authorised in 2003/2004 under delegated authority, after consultation with the Convener and the local member.

Having heard various members express their support, the Committee agreed to note the list of new street names as set out in the Appendix to the Report.

19. NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONSENTS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Roads Committee of 17 April 2003, there was submitted [Report No 526/04](#) by the Director of Roads informing the Committee of new Road Construction Consents which had been granted, under delegated authority, by the Director of Roads in 2003/2004.

The Committee agreed to note the new Road Construction Consents as set out in the Appendix to the Report.

20. UTILISATION OF THE ROADS AND TRANSPORT RENEWAL AND REPAIRS FUND 2004/2005

With reference to Article 29 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004, there was submitted [Report No 527/04](#) by the Director of Roads proposing utilisation of part of the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs Fund for various necessary works to be carried out in financial year 2004/2005.

The Committee agreed that the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repairs Fund be utilised to the extent of £2,000,000 to allow the works listed below to be carried out:-

- (i) the bridge repairs listed in Appendix A to the Report;
- (ii) the renewal and replacement of street lighting apparatus listed in Appendix B to the Report;
- (iii) the carriageway and footway works listed in Appendix C to the Report;
- (iv) the traffic management infrastructure renewals listed in Appendix D to the Report;
- (v) the public transport infrastructure repairs and renewals detailed in Appendix E to the Report;
- (vi) the harbour works detailed in Appendix F to the Report; and

- (vii) the renewal and repair of Christmas lighting features and ancillary infrastructure detailed in Appendix G to the Report.

21. QUALITY ASSURANCE - ROADS DEPARTMENT'S QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - EXTENSION OF SCOPE

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Roads Committee of 14 June 2001, there was submitted [Report No 528/04](#) by the Director of Roads informing the Committee of the successful extension of the Roads Department's BS EN ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System which would now encompass the provision of civil, structural and traffic engineering, project management, road management and maintenance services for local authority functions.

The Report indicated that, on 24 February 2004, the Traffic Management and Roads Maintenance Sections of the Department had been the subject of an assessment by the British Standards Institution (BSI) auditors who had examined the processes and procedures in use and then recommended their certification to BS EN ISO 9001: 2000. Confirmation of this registration had followed on 1 March 2004.

The Committee, having agreed to note the successful extension of scope of the Quality Management System used by the Roads Department in compliance with BS EN ISO 9001: 2000, extended congratulations to all those staff concerned.

22. BIKE WEEK AND BIKE2WORK 2004 - 12-20 JUNE 2004

With reference to Article 21 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 June 2003, there was submitted [Report No 529/04](#) by the Director of Roads outlining the proposed arrangements to mark National Bike Week and Bike2Work 2004.

The Report indicated that National Bike Week and Bike2Work Week would be held between 12 - 20 June 2004 and advised that it would be appropriate that Angus Council marked the occasion by hosting and promoting various events to encourage cycling and road safety for cyclists.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that Breakfast Receptions would be held in the various burghs - Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Monifieth and Montrose during the week Monday 14 to Friday 18 June 2004 to which Angus Council staff, cycling supporters and elected members would be invited;
- (ii) to note that an evening Fun Run, in conjunction with the Cycle Touring Club, would be held on Wednesday 16 June, from Forfar Leisure Centre via various routes to Roundyhill and thereafter returning to Forfar, to which Angus Council staff, cycling supporters and elected members would be invited;
- (iii) to note that a Pedalling Picnic Fun Run, in conjunction with Sustrans, would be held on Sunday 13 June from Ethiebeaton Retail Park to RRS Discovery via the Sustrans Route 1 and return, to which Angus Council staff, cycling supporters and elected members would be invited;
- (iv) to note that "On Road" cycle training would be offered by Tayside Police's Road Safety Officer (Angus) at lunchtime on Wednesday 16 June in Forfar;
- (v) to note that "Bike Road Shows" would be held by various road safety personnel for secondary school pupils at Arbroath Academy and Arbroath High School;
- (vi) to note that it was planned to involve all secondary schools in Angus by encouraging pupils to take part; and
- (vii) to note that the Director of Roads, in conjunction with the Chief Constable, would promote a campaign of road safety aimed at newsagents and their staff (paperboys/girls) in all the Angus burghs.

23. TRAFFIC ORDERS

(a) Traffic Regulation Orders - Update

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 January 2003, there was submitted and noted [Report No 530/04](#) by the Director of Roads providing an update of Traffic Regulation Orders currently being processed and their stage of progress as at 1 April 2004.

(b) Conversion of Road (Littlecauseway, Forfar) Amendment Order 2004

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Roads Committee of 13 June 2002, there was submitted [Joint Report No 531/04](#) by the Director of Roads and the Director of Planning and Transport advising that the proposed Angus Council Conversion of Road (Littlecauseway, Forfar) Amendment Order 2004 had been advertised and notified to relevant parties as required by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, and asking the Committee to approve the making and confirmation of the Order.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the making and confirmation of the Conversion of Road (Littlecauseway, Forfar) Amendment Order 2004; and
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Law and Administration to sign the Order on behalf of the Council and thereafter advertise the making and confirmation of the Order as required.

(c) Temporary Traffic Orders

There was submitted and noted [Report No 532/04](#) by the Director of Law and Administration advising that, at the request of the Director of Roads, four Temporary Traffic Orders had been made, as detailed in the Report.

(d) Angus Council (Roads Adjacent to Schools) (Part-Time 30 MPH Speed Limits) Order 2004

With reference to Article 24 of the minute of meeting of the Roads Committee of 12 June 2003, there was submitted [Report No 533/04](#) by the Director of Law and Administration relating to the permanent implementation of a reduced speed limit at specified times at Monikie Primary School, following the success of the trial of the part-time 30mph speed limit.

The Committee agreed to approve and make the Order, subject to the modification required by the Scottish Ministers, to implement a permanent part-time 30mph speed limit beyond the initial temporary experimental period.

24. ANGUS AHEAD CAMPAIGN - TARTAN DAY 'WELCOME HOME'

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004 and Article 13 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 25 March 2004, there was submitted [Report No 534/04](#) by the Chief Executive outlining the activities and outcomes of Scotland's first Tartan Day "Welcome Home" celebrations held in Angus from 3 - 10 April 2004.

The Report indicated that the Tartan Day festival had significantly raised the profile of Arbroath and Angus at a national level, with maximum media exposure in daily, provincial and weekend newspapers and national television. It had also gained support from decision makers with VisitScotland, Scottish Development International, Event Scotland, the Scottish Executive and the US Consulate. It was expected that Tartan TV would broadcast the commissioned video of Tartan Day "Welcome Home" to 10 million viewers across the US and Canada. Aberdeen based TVP Multi-Media had also been commissioned by Clan Lindsay in America to film the festivities. It was noted that work would begin immediately on building upon the success for 2005 and it was expected that a draft programme and action plan would be available in June 2004. In the meantime, every opportunity would be taken to utilise the film footage taken at this year's event.

Having heard the Convener express his thanks to the Vice-Convener for attending the event in his absence, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report which outlined the activities and outcomes of the Tartan Day Festival focused in Arbroath from Saturday 3 to Saturday 10 April 2004;
- (ii) to note the intention to develop Tartan Day as a Scotland wide event through engagement of the business community nationally, with the aim of promoting the importance of Arbroath and Angus locally, nationally and internationally; and
- (iii) to authorise the Economic Development Manager to consult with the Angus Champion Committee and bring forward a proposal for hosting Tartan Day 2005 for initial consideration by the Angus Ahead Monitoring Group and ultimately to this Committee for approval.

25. UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

With reference to Article 35 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2003, there was submitted Report No 535/04 by the Director of Planning and Transport providing various statistics, graphs and charts showing unemployment rates by travel to work areas, numbers and ages of unemployed persons, duration of unemployment and the number of vacancies in Angus and neighbouring authorities for the month of February 2004.

Having heard various members express their concern at the level of unemployment in the Montrose South area, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

26. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE REVIEW OF THE AREA TOURIST BOARD ARRANGEMENTS - OUTCOME FROM THE AD HOC MINISTERIAL GROUP ON TOURISM

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of meeting of the Economic Development Committee of 10 October 2002, there was submitted [Report No 536/04](#) by the Chief Executive considering the organisational and financial implications for Angus of the Ministerial Review of Tourism announced on 11 March 2004.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Executive had now reviewed the structure of the Area Tourist Board (ATB) network. The existing structure of VisitScotland, acting as a marketing and co-ordinating body and supported regionally by 14 ATBs, was to be changed over the next two years and would be replaced by an integrated VisitScotland network, similar to the Enterprise network, with the 14 local tourist hubs corresponding to the current ATB boundaries.

The Report concluded that, while the thrust of the new arrangements was to be welcomed in principle, there was a considerable amount of detail still to be investigated. It was likely that this would take some time to negotiate between councils at local and national levels, and a full report on the outcome would be made in due course.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Ministerial Statement of the review of ATBs announced on 11 March 2004;
- (ii) to maintain the current £158,000 core funding amount until such time as a new Service Level Agreement was negotiated in the context of a Tourism National Strategy framework;
- (iii) to note that discussions were ongoing with regard to the overall information services required in Angus, and that a further report would be made on the possibility of some TIC provisions being transferred to Angus Council, initially on a pilot basis, subject to the cost being met from the core funding currently being made available to the Angus and Dundee Tourist Board from the Economic Development Revenue Budget; and
- (iv) to remit to the Economic Development Manager to liaise with the Chief Executive of the Angus and Dundee Tourist Board and bring back a structured agenda, covering the transition of operations to VisitScotland, for initial consideration by the Angus Tourism and Monitoring Group and ultimately for decision by the Committee.

**27. NORTH SEA COMMISSION 13TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY - GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN
16-18 JUNE 2004**

There was submitted [Report No 537/04](#) by the Chief Executive seeking approval for member and officer representation at the North Sea Commission's 13th General Assembly which was taking place in Gothenburg, Sweden from 16 - 18 June 2004.

The Report indicated that the benefit for Angus Council would be dependent upon the development of contacts and networking at the North Sea Commission's General Assembly, culminating in successful applications for funding. The development of effective transnational projects in the future would require a working knowledge of the relevant funds and administrative structures. Attendance at the General Assembly was therefore seen to be important to the Council in terms of building on progress made to date and maximising future European funding, as well as developing effective transitional links.

The Committee agreed that the Council be represented by the Vice-Convener and an officer nominated by the Chief Executive at the 2004/2005 North Sea Commission's Annual General Assembly.

28. ANGUS IN CHINA INITIATIVE - TRADE MISSION TO CHINA IN MARCH 2004

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Economic Development Committee of 27 February 2003, there was submitted [Report No 538/04](#) by the Chief Executive summarising the key outcomes and achievements arising from the trade mission to China in March 2004.

The Report indicated that, from the outset, Angus Council had insisted that the continuing links with China were focused on trade development, in that the trade mission should be employer led. It was clear that, once again, the mission had been extremely successful as far as the employer representatives were concerned and significant benefits had been reported to their organisations as a result of their participation.

The Report concluded that the Angus in China Trade Mission 2004 represented another key milestone in the development of Angus' relationship with Yantai. It was clear that tangible business benefits were now being reaped from the Council's investment in the relationship in the earlier years, and it was vital to consolidate the success with efforts to encourage more businesses to develop links with China.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the successful outcome of the Trade Mission to China;
- (ii) to note the considerable progress that had been made in developing golf links between Angus and China and to approve the attendance of the Economic Development Manager at the Volvo China Open in November 2004;
- (iii) that in order to bring the trade benefits of the relationship with Yantai to the broader regional economy, the Economic Development Unit would, in future, work in partnership with the Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce to alert both Angus and non-Angus firms to the opportunities that existed in China; and
- (iv) to remit to the Economic Development Manager to organise a seminar in conjunction with Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Business Gateway International Trade, on possible trade links identified to encourage further Angus and Tayside companies to commence international trade with China.

29. SHELL TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME - PROPOSED TAYSIDE PROJECT

There was submitted [Report No 539/04](#) by the Chief Executive advising members that a request for support from the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme in Tayside had been received from the Arbroath based co-ordinator of the Scottish programme. The Report also provided background to the programme and informed the Committee of the support level agreed by the Economic Development Manager.

The Report indicated that the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme had been shown to be very valuable to participating companies and students, many of whom, it had been demonstrated, found employment with the placement companies. The contribution of Angus Council towards the programme would be recognised in all publicity material and it was intended that officers from the Economic Development Unit would make contact with participating Angus companies to get a direct view of the value of the programme to them and to assess the value of continuing support for future years.

The Committee agreed to note the decision to support the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme placement of 18 students in businesses throughout Tayside.

30. EUROPEAN COMMISSION THIRD COHESION REPORT - CONVERGENCE, COMPETITIVENESS AND CO-OPERATION

With reference to Article 27 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 January 2004, there was submitted [Report No 540/04](#) by the Chief Executive providing background to the recently released European Commission Third Cohesion Report, which outlined the Commission's proposals for Regional Policy between 2007 - 2013.

The Report indicated that the ability to attract European funding for projects in Angus was likely to be reduced significantly post 2006. Nevertheless, it appeared that, depending on the approach adopted by the UK Government, funding could still be attracted. It would therefore be important to influence policy to the benefit of Angus wherever possible.

The Committee agreed to note the summary of the conclusions of the European Commission's Third Cohesion Report, "Convergence, Competitiveness and Co-operation" contained in the Report.

31. ANGUS GRANT SCHEME - FUNDING REQUEST

There was submitted [Report No 515/04](#) by the Chief Executive noting the success of the Angus Grant Scheme and seeking authority to continue to support it, in conjunction with Scottish Enterprise Tayside, by granting approval to contribute a further £30,000 to the Scheme.

The Report indicated that the Angus Grant Scheme had made a considerable contribution to business creation, retention and expansion. The grants awarded had assisted 18 small or start up businesses to diversify or expand and 85 jobs had been created or safeguarded.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the recent success of the Angus Grant Scheme;
- (ii) to note the previous successful application for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant for a 5 year period until 31 December 2006 and remit to the Chief Executive to explore a further ERDF grant to allow for an expansion of the Scheme;
- (iii) to note that Scottish Enterprise Tayside had confirmed conditionally, a contribution of a further £30,000, subject to this being matched by Angus Council; and
- (iv) to approve the contribution of a further £30,000 from Angus Council to the Angus Loan Fund Limited, the vehicle through which the Angus Grant Scheme was operated.

32. BUSINESS GATEWAY – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

With reference to Article 17 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 October 2003, there was submitted [Report No 542/04](#) by the Chief Executive informing members of the Business Gateway Angus achievement towards meeting the targets set for its 2003/2004 Service Level Agreement with the Council and advising of the general progress with Tayside Business Gateway and of the targets agreed for 2004/2005.

The Report indicated that, overall, the Business Gateway Office in Angus was performing well, although the initially low level of some targets left room for improvement.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Law and Administration to sign the Minute of Variation and Extension of Contract on behalf of the Council.

33. HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 4 MARCH 2004 - 29 APRIL 2004

With reference to Article 41 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 4 March 2004, there was submitted and noted [Report No 541/04](#) by the Chief Executive identifying the highlights and achievements of the work within the Economic Development Unit for the period 4 March - 29 April 2004.