

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 26 October 2004 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors ROB MURRAY, BILL ROBERTON, IAN ANGUS, FRANK ELLIS, JACK GIBB, ALEX KING, IAN MACKINTOSH, IAIN GAUL (substitute for GLENNIS MIDDLETON), JOY MOWATT, BOB MYLES, GEORGE NORRIE MBE, DAVID SELFRIDGE, JENNIFER SPEIRS, RICHARD SPEIRS and TERRY WOOD.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor GLENNIS MIDDLETON.

Councillor MURRAY, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES

(a) Minute of Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 September 2004](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Monitoring Group

The [minute of meeting of the Monitoring Group of 7 October 2004](#) was submitted and noted.

3. CAPITAL MONITORING - COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2004/2005

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 21 October 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1245/04](#) by the Director of Finance advising members of capital expenditure incurred for the period from 1 April to 31 August 2004 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision for the year.

The Report indicated that capital expenditure projections were within available resources and although the Composite Capital Programme was currently projecting an underspend, the Budget Sub-Group would meet to review the position and address issues relating to the projected spend position, possible slippage of projects and resources potentially available for 2004/2005.

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

4. REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 21 October 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1246/04](#) by the Director of Finance advising members of the actual revenue expenditure incurred and income received in respect of the Council's Departments for the period 1 April to 31 August 2004.

The Report indicated that under some of the cost heads, individual departmental actual expenditure was currently ahead of the phased budget and while there were no particular concerns arising from these, the position would continue to be monitored closely to ensure that overall net expenditure did not exceed departmental cash limited budgets.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

5. REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2004/2005

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 21 October 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1247/04](#) by the Director of Finance giving an indication of the likely revenue out-turn for the financial year 2004/2005 and advising that there were no particular issues of concern arising at present.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2003/2004

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 21 October 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1251/04](#) by the Director of Finance apprising members of the Treasury Management Activities in respect of the Council for the financial year 2003/2004.

The Report indicated that the need to prepare a Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Annual Report was a requirement of the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and this Code had been adopted by the Council on 18 June 2002.

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

7. FORFAR/CARNOUSTIE SCHOOLS PROJECT REVISED OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE - UPDATE

With reference to Article 5 (b) of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 30 September 2004, there was submitted [Joint Report No 1115/04](#) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Education updating members in respect of the current position regarding the Revised Outline Business Case for the Forfar/Carnoustie Schools Project and reminding members of the immediate next steps in the project procurement process.

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

8. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT 2003/2004

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1236/04](#) by the Director of Finance presenting the Annual Internal Audit of the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

The Audit Report provided the detailed findings of the audit work conducted and also provided background to the Chief Internal Auditors assurance opinion. The Report also considered a number of strands of governance and made recommendations in relation to the embedded risk management process and further developments of matters related to the local code. In addition, the Report considered the Standards of Conduct element of the Local Code in more detail and concluded that the procedures the Council had implemented were strong in this area.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note that the Chief Internal Auditor would follow up the Report Action Plan and bring back the results to a future meeting.

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 11 May 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1294/04](#) by the Chief Executive providing members with an update on community planning activities in Angus.

The Report indicated that the Council had been working in partnership for a number of years, having published the first Community Plan in December 2000. Since that time, two Community Plan Progress Reports and Reviews had been published, the latter setting out priorities and actions for the partnership's work over the year, at both the thematic and local geographic levels, with a summary and indicator supplement also available. It was intended to continue with reporting and reviewing progress annually against the ten year Community Plan.

In addition, the Report referred to a decision that had been taken by the Angus Community Partnership to provide a grant of £1,000 to each local area partnership, the purpose of which was to facilitate the local area partnership to engage with the wider community.

The Report concluded that community planning in Angus was progressing well at this time. In order to keep elected members apprised of developments in community planning, it was proposed that a full report setting out progress against the various action plans that had been developed would be submitted to this Committee on a regular basis.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the decision taken by the Angus Community Planning Partnership to provide a grant of £1,000 to local area partnerships.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of the special meeting of Angus Council of 29 September 2004, there was submitted [Joint Report No 1265/04](#) by the Chief Executive and the Director of Law and Administration asking members to decide on the proposals or ideas the Council should give the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland in relation to the design of new wards to be used for the Local Government Elections in 2007.

The Report indicated that at this stage, the Commission were only looking for proposals or ideas in relation to the design of new wards. The Report suggested that eight wards could be designed around the seven Burghs of Angus, with two in relation to Arbroath. This would provide a sound basis for the development of initial proposals by the Commission, and would embrace the concept of "community focus".

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Executive to advise the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland that its "concluded view" for the purposes of Stage 1 of the Review was that 8 new multi-member wards should be designed around the 7 burghs of Angus, with 2 in relation to Arbroath; and that the detail of the boundaries between these wards should be the subject of ongoing consultation at the subsequent stages;
- (iii) that in the response to the Commission, the Chief Executive request that copies of the Commission's provisional proposals be placed, not only in Libraries, but also in ACCESS Offices, Area Housing Offices, Mobile Libraries, GP Surgeries and Village Halls;
- (iv) to establish a special Sub-Committee with delegated powers to consider and comment on initial proposals by the Commission when released to the Council and to discuss with officers where the detailed boundaries between wards/communities should be drawn; and
- (v) that the membership of the Sub-Committee be made up of 4 SNP and 3 opposition members, comprising Councillors Murray, Roberton, King, Welsh, Richard Speirs, Myles and Mackintosh, with substitutes to be permitted.

11. FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO ANGUS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 September 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1295/04](#) by the Chief Executive informing members of the total financial support provided to Angus Community Councils for the period 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004.

The Report concluded that Angus Council recognised that Community Councils had made, and would continue to make, a valuable contribution to the development of the Angus community, and it was hoped that the support provided demonstrated the Council's commitment to working with the Angus Community Councils.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

12. ESTABLISHMENT CHANGES - POLICY

There was submitted [Report No 1296/04](#) by the Chief Executive which detailed the present system for agreeing changes to departments' establishments and outlined recommendations for the introduction of a revised, more consistent, transparent and robust approach.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations outlined in Section 3 of the Report and in particular agreed that:-

- (i) authority to establish, delete, and regrade posts on JNC Conditions of Service rest with the Strategic Policy Committee;
- (ii) authority to establish a new post on, or to regrade an existing post to, an APT & C grade in excess of AP5/6 be delegated jointly to the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and the Personnel Services Manager;
- (iii) authority for all other establishment changes (except in regard to teaching posts) be delegated to the Personnel Services Manager; and
- (iv) authority for all teaching establishment changes be delegated to the Director of Education.

13. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS FOR 2005/2006

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 11 May 2004, there was submitted [Report No 1297/04](#) by the Director of Law and Administration setting out a proposed timetable of meetings for 2005/2006. The Report indicated that in common with previous years, members were to note that special meetings may be needed for consideration of the Revenue Budget 2006/2007 in February 2006. Otherwise, special meetings could be called by the Provost or appropriate Conveners as and when necessary, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Orders.

The Committee agreed to approve the proposed Timetable of Meetings for 2005/2006 appended to the Report, subject to noting that additional meetings may be required for approval of the Revenue Budget in February 2006.