

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SPECIAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 19 August 2004 at 4.16pm.

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

Councillor MURRAY, Convener, in the Chair.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors IAN ANGUS and RICHARD SPEIRS.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. FORFAR/CARNOUSTIE SCHOOLS PROJECT - REVISED OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

With reference to Article 22(a) of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee held earlier today, there was submitted [Joint Report No 888/04](#) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Education seeking approval of the arrangements to be put in place for submission to the Scottish Executive of a Revised Outline Business Case for the Forfar/Carnoustie Schools Project. The Report also provided the latest indication of the likely financial implications for the Council arising from the project.

The Report indicated that in light of a number of factors and the changes which had been made to the scope of the project since the Outline Business Case had been submitted, it was now necessary to provide the Scottish Executive with a formal update on the project proposals. This update would reaffirm that the project remained deliverable in value for money and affordability terms.

The Report concluded that submission of the Revised Outline Business Case for the project was a major milestone in the project's development and approval of it by the Executive was essential to maintain their funding support and to allow the project to proceed to tendering stage.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the latest position on the Forfar/Carnoustie Schools Project, as outlined in the Report;
- (ii) to note the requirement for the Council to submit to the Scottish Executive a Revised Outline Business Case for the project based on the latest project proposals;
- (iii) to note that the Revised Outline Business Case document was currently in near final form and that it would be finalised based on the Education Committee's decision on the new school site for the north/north-east catchment area which had been agreed earlier today;
- (iv) to authorise the Director of Education in consultation with the Director of Finance, to submit to the Scottish Executive the finalised Revised Outline Business Case document once it was available;
- (v) that authority in terms of recommendation (iv) above be subject to:-
 - there being no material change to the project scope as currently envisaged
 - the PPP procurement option continuing to offer the best value for money
 - the gross affordability gap for the project not exceeding £0.600 million in the first full year of operation (projected to be 2009/2010);

- (vi) to note that in the unlikely event of the terms of recommendation (iv) above not being met, a further report would be submitted to the Committee for consideration of how to proceed;
- (vii) to authorise the Director of Education to carry out a public consultation exercise in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 on the Council's proposals for Carnoustie High School and thereafter seek the approval of the Scottish Ministers;
- (viii) to note that a Final Business Case for the project would also require to be submitted to the Scottish Executive (currently scheduled for December 2005) prior to the PPP contract being awarded; and
- (ix) subject to Scottish Executive approval of the Council's Revised Outline Business Case, to authorise officers to begin the tender process for the project through publication of the project details in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).