

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 25 January 2007 at 4.00 pm.

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

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors JACK GIBB and ROBERT MYLES.

Councillor SELFRIDGE, Convener, in the Chair.

Before commencing the business, members expressed very good wishes to Councillor Jack Gibb who was now making progress following a recent illness.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Oswald declared an interest in item 16 as an affected resident.

Councillor Scrimgeour declared an interest in item 23 as a member of Amnesty International and indicated that he would not participate in any voting on the matter.

Mr Donald Macaskill, Committee Services Manager, declared an interest in item 10 in terms of the Employees' Code of Conduct as a respoondee to the residents' questionnaire and left the meeting during discussion of the matter.

2. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 November 2006](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 24 November 2006](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Executive Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of 14 December 2006](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX II**).

3. KIRRIEMUIR DRAINAGE CONSTRAINT

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Development Control Committee of 11 November 1999, there was submitted [Report No 77/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services outlining the revised position of Scottish Water in relation to sewerage constraints for new developments generally and highlighting a recent positive change with regard to the drainage situation in Kirriemuir. Approval was requested to remove the formal drainage constraint in Kirriemuir and to establish a protocol for dealing with future planning applications in the Kirriemuir Waste Water Treatment Plant catchment area.

The Report indicated that a development control protocol should enable the opportunities for new housing and employment developments proposed through the Angus Local Plan Review to come forward and that the Council would maintain a close working relationship with Scottish Water in order to secure development, monitor housing land performance and to seek an appropriate long term solution to the capacity constraints at the Treatment Plant.

Having heard Councillor Mackintosh welcome the Report, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to remove the formal drainage constraint currently in place for the Kirriemuir Waste Water Treatment Plant catchment area;
- (iii) to approve the protocol, as detailed in the Report, for dealing with planning applications in the Kirriemuir area in light of the commitment by Scottish Water to provide connections for up to 60 house units per annum over the next three years; and
- (iv) to note the revised general position of Scottish Water in relation to the provision of strategic capacity for new developments in Scotland.

4. FINALISED ANGUS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - BEECHWOOD PLACE, KIRRIEMUIR

With reference to Article 7(j) of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 14 December 2006, there was submitted [Report No 78/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services setting out the suggested wording of the modification to the Angus Local Plan Review, as agreed in principle by the Council, to allocate land south of Beechwood Place, Kirriemuir for 40 houses during the period to 2011.

The Report indicated that the modifications, together with other post inquiry modifications, would be advertised with a period of six weeks available for objections and could lead to a requirement for a second public local inquiry before the Angus Local Plan Review was adopted.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the suggested wording for the proposal to allocate forty houses at Beechwood Place, Kirriemuir as detailed in paragraph 4.8 of the Report; and
- (iii) to approve the other modifications as set out in paragraphs 4.10 and 4.11 of the Report.

In accordance with Standing Order 15(9)(ii), Councillors Ritchie, Ellis, McGlynn, Mackintosh and Nield requested that their dissent be recorded.

5. CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS FUND - UPDATE

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2006, there was submitted [Report No 79/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services updating members on progress in the delivery of the programme of projects to be funded during the current financial year through the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Fund and seeking agreement to proposed amendments to the programme, which would ensure that the Fund allocation for 2006/2007 would be fully utilised.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the current position with regard to the delivery of the programme of projects for the Fund during financial year 2006/2007; and
- (iii) to authorise the proposed amendments to the programme as detailed in the Report.

6. CAIRNGORMS LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN PROJECT OFFICER AND BIODIVERSITY GRANT SCHEME

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 November 2005, there was submitted [Report No 80/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services recommending that the Council contribute towards the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan Project Officer post and the Cairngorms Biodiversity Grant Scheme.

The Report indicated that satisfactory progress in implementing the Action Plan was being made and a summary of the progress was detailed in Appendix A of the Report. The contribution towards the post of the Project Officer was considered to be good value for money and a contribution towards the Grant Scheme reflected a relatively small part of Angus covered by the Action Plan but demonstrated the Council's commitment.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to contribute £1,108 towards the cost of the Project Officer post up to 31 March 2007 and £1,000 towards the Cairngorms Biodiversity Grant Scheme, this expenditure to be met from the Planning and Transport Revenue Budget 2006/2007.

7. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 81/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services updating members of recent and proposed changes to the local bus service provision throughout Angus.

The Report indicated that the local bus service network continued to be kept under review and adjusted in order to meet changes in passenger requirements and, where necessary, tendered service provision was secured in order to meet the needs of users.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the amendments to local bus service provision in Angus to meet passenger requirements;
- (ii) to authorise the continuation of a financial contribution towards Perth and Kinross Council contracts for cross-boundary services 57 and 59 following re-tendering in respect of these services;
- (iii) to homologate the payment made to Stagecoach Strathtay in respect of additional costs incurred in maintaining local bus service provision during the period of road works on the A935;
- (iv) to authorise the award of a best value contract to Stagecoach Strathtay for the provision of additional journeys between Letham and Forfar; and
- (v) to authorise the award of a best value contract to Stagecoach Strathtay for the provision of a Saturday workers service between Aberlemno and Forfar.

8. NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2006, there was submitted [Report No 82/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services advising members of the publication of Scotland's National Transport Strategy by the Scottish Executive.

The Report indicated that publication of this document was welcomed and a summary of how the Scottish Executive proposed to deliver its commitments to the strategy was detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;

- (ii) to express concern at the lack of public transport facilities for rural areas; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Infrastructure Services to raise with the Bridgemasters of the Forth and Tay Road Bridges their proposals for a strategy for existing employees at the bridges should the campaign to abolish tolls be successful.

9. IMPROVED PARKING FACILITIES AT THE ST ANDREWS AND OLD CHURCH, HIGH STREET, MONTROSE

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 83/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services proposing the provision of a new parking facility at the St Andrews and Old Church, High Street, Montrose to enable parking of funeral and wedding vehicles.

The Committee agreed to authorise the provision of a bespoke parking area to be constructed at an estimated cost of £35,000, including design and administration, in order to accommodate principal vehicles attending wedding and funeral services at the St Andrews and Old Church, High Street, Montrose, as detailed at option 2 of the Report.

10. 20MPH SPEED LIMITS AT SCHOOLS - FORFAR ACADEMY, TAYLOR STREET, FORFAR

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 84/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services advising members of the outcome of a residents' consultation which had been undertaken to inform of the introduction of a 20mph zone around Forfar Academy and associated traffic calming measures in Taylor Street, Forfar.

The Report indicated that the traffic calming measures proposed near the Academy would slow traffic, improve road safety and encourage walking and cycling in the area, particularly for those attending the school and would calm traffic adjacent to the housing outwith school times.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the outcome of the residents' consultation which had been undertaken regarding the proposed traffic calming measures around Forfar Academy, Taylor Street, Forfar;
- (iii) to authorise implementation of a 20mph speed limit with associated traffic calming measures in Taylor Street;
- (iv) to instruct the Head of Roads to initiate promotion of the necessary Traffic Orders associated with these proposals; and
- (v) to instruct the Head of Roads to submit a report on progress made on the Safer Schools Programme.

11. VARIATION OF SPEED LIMITS - GLAMIS AND KELLAS

There was submitted [Report No 85/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services proposing alterations to the current speed limits at Glamis and Kellas which were considered appropriate in the interests of pedestrian traffic safety.

The Committee agreed to authorise changes to the speed limits from 60mph to 30mph at Kirriemuir - Glamis Road (A928), Glamis and Kellas Road, Kellas, as detailed in the Report.

12. STANDING LISTS OF CONTRACTORS FOR CONSTRUCTION, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS UNDER £200,000.

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 86/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services recommending the addition of contractors to the Council's Standing Lists of Contractors for various categories

of work up to a maximum of £200,000, who had not submitted their applications in time for consideration at the meeting of this Committee on 25 November 2004.

The Report indicated, that by increasing the number of contractors to the Standing Lists, it would provide more scope for competitive tendering and, as such, the Council should obtain better value for money from future works contracts as a result of the greater competition amongst the contractors.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the contractors listed in Appendix 1 of the Report for inclusion in the Standing Lists of Contractors for various categories of work up to a maximum contract value of £200,000; and
- (iii) to approve the revised categories of work for the contractor detailed in Appendix 2 of the Report.

13. ARBROATH HARBOUR ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS - ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 87/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services containing details of the tenders received for the environmental enhancements at Arbroath Harbour and recommending acceptance of the lowest tender submitted, modified by savings.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve acceptance of the lowest tender received, that of T & N Gilmartin Contractors Ltd, modified by savings, in the revised amount of £431,349.48;
- (ii) to approve the estimated total cost of £514,000 (at out-turn prices);
- (iii) to note that an allowance of £474,000 had been made for this project in the Roads Financial Plan 2006/2010 as contained in the Final Revenue and Budget Volume 2006/200;
- (iv) to note that the additional cost of £40,000 would be met by an additional contribution of European grant of £16,000, a contribution of £12,000 by the Arbroath Abbey to Harbour Townscape Heritage Initiative and virement of £12,000 within the Roads capital budget for 2007/2008; and
- (v) to note that the Financial Plan would be amended at the next opportunity to reflect the revised funding arrangements.

14. A92 DUNDEE TO ARBROATH ROAD

There was submitted [Report No 88/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services advising members of the first full year of operation of the upgraded A92 dual carriageway between Dundee and Arbroath which had been formally available for use on 27 September 2005.

The Report indicated that the objectives of the upgrading were:-

- reduction in accidents
- journey time reliability
- improve attraction of the A92
- relieve traffic on minor roads
- improvement economic regeneration
- improve junctions
- improvements to facilitate public transport provision.

Following discussion, and having heard from a number of members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note that, to date, the A92 dualling improvement scheme had successfully met its objectives.

15. MONTROSE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT - NATIONAL AWARDS

There was submitted [Report No 89/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services commenting on the successful completion of the Montrose replacement bridge contract and recognition of this project through the achievement of national awards.

The Report indicated that the project had attained a silver Considerate Constructors' Award, a commendation in the Major Projects category from the Saltire Society and had been submitted for several categories in the British Construction Industry Awards, all of which had recognised the excellent achievement of this successful civil engineering construction project.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the success of the Montrose bridge replacement project; and
- (iii) to express thanks and appreciation to all of the personnel involved in the procurement, administration and construction of the project.

16. OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, CARNOUSTIE 2007 - TRAFFIC AND PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

There was submitted [Report No 90/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services detailing proposed traffic and parking arrangements which were considered necessary to allow access to the Championship golf course, Carnoustie and to the town in connection with the Open Golf Championship which was to take place in Carnoustie in July 2007.

The Report indicated that the main traffic and parking proposals had now been agreed although a great deal of detailed works still required to be done which would be the subject of ongoing discussions with all relevant parties to ensure that the traffic and parking arrangements operated as smoothly as possible.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the traffic and parking arrangements being made in preparation for the Open Golf Championship to be held in Carnoustie in July 2007, with detailed arrangements to be the subject of ongoing discussions with all relevant parties;
- (iii) to authorise promotion of temporary Traffic Regulation Orders to effect tidal flow operations on the C62 Balmachie Road, A930 Carlogie Road and one way flow operations in Ferrier Street, Kinloch Street, Links Avenue, reduced speed limits and any other Orders required throughout the period as detailed in the Report; and
- (iv) to approve all measures being taken to promote, encourage and support the enhancement of public transport facilities, especially for the period of the Open Golf Championship.

17. TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ORDERS

There was submitted and noted [Report No 91/07](#) by the Director of Corporate Services advising that, at the request of the Head of Roads, six temporary Traffic Orders had been made, as detailed in the Report.

18. EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT FUND - ASSET MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS - UPDATE

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2006, there was submitted [Report No 102/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services updating members on the unsuccessful Efficient Government Fund bid for Asset Management.

The Report indicated that, while the bid had been unsuccessful, discussions on the best alternative means of pursuing this were ongoing through the offices of the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to homologate the decision of the Head of Roads, in consultation with the Convener, to engage with the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland to consider future asset management proposals; and
- (iii) to note that the outcome of discussions with the Society would be reported back to this Committee in due course.

19. UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 92/07](#) ([92A](#), [92UE1](#), [92ue2](#), [92UE3](#); [92UE4](#)) by the Director of Infrastructure Services providing various statistics, graphs and charts showing unemployment rates by travel to work area, the numbers and ages of unemployed persons, the duration of unemployment and the number of vacancies in Angus and the neighbouring authorities for the month of November 2006.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

20. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION – HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS – 10 NOVEMBER 2006 - 11 JANUARY 2007

With reference to Article 21 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 November 2006, there was submitted and noted [Report No 93/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services outlining the highlights and achievements of the Economic Development Division for the period 10 November 2006 to 11 January 2007.

21. PARTICIPATION IN THE ABERDEEN RENEWABLE ENERGY GROUP

There was submitted [Report No 94/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services seeking approval to join the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and participate in a wide range of industry events to assist Angus companies diversify and explore new opportunities within renewable energy markets.

The Report indicated that this Group had been established in 2001 as a defensive measure to combat a projected decline in North Sea oil and gas activity and as a pro-active measure to address an emerging alternative energy sector. The Report further advised that while the North Sea oil and gas industry was buoyant at present, it was recognised that this resource would eventually decline and companies who had been traditionally involved in this market would require to diversify into new sustainable energy markets.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to join the Aberdeen Renewal Energy Group;
- (iii) to participate in industry events and initiatives to assist Angus companies to diversify and explore new opportunities within renewal energy;
- (iv) to develop trade links in conjunction with the Aberdeen Renewal Energy Group partners to enable companies to compete globally in the renewables market; and

- (v) to note that any cost involved could be met from the Economic Development Revenue budget 2006/2007.

22. BROOMFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MONTROSE - PROPOSED LEASE OF UNIT 4

With reference to Article 28 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 January 2006, there was submitted [Report No 95/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services seeking approval to conclude a lease of Unit 4 at Broomfield Industrial Estate, Montrose.

The Committee agreed to authorise conclusion of a lease for this Unit to the Montrose Indoor Karting Area, on the terms and conditions detailed in the Report.

23. OVERSEAS TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES FOR 2007/2008

With reference to Article 20 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 March 2006, there was submitted [Report No 96/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services seeking approval to the Overseas Trade Promotion Schedule for 2007/2008.

The Report indicated that the proposed Schedule would continue to contribute significantly to the realisation of the Council's Economic Development strategy in terms of assisting existing firms and promoting inward investment. Submission of the Schedule was a legal requirement and, while it would be possible to be amended at a later date, required to be submitted now for approval.

COUNCILLOR SELFRIDGE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR RITCHIE, MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE:-

- (I) NOTE THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT; AND
- (II) APPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OVERSEAS TRADE PROMOTION SCHEDULE FOR 2007/2008 AS DETAILED IN THE REPORT, WITH THE COSTS OF £17,000 BEING MET FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BUDGET 2007/2008.

Councillor Nield, seconded by Councillor Richard Speirs, moved as an amendment that the Committee agree the implementation of the first three parts of the Overseas Trade Promotion Schedule for 2007/2008, but defer a decision on the "Angus in China VI" trade mission until after the Local Government Elections on 3 May 2007.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:

Councillors Selfridge, Ritchie, Angus, Ellis, Oswald, King, McGlynn, Mowatt and Spink (9)

For the amendment:

Councillors Mackintosh, Nield, Salmond and Speirs (4)

No vote:

Councillors Scrimgeour (having declared an interest at item 1 above).

The motion was accordingly declared carried and became the finding of the meeting.

24. AN EMPLOYABILITY FRAMEWORK FOR ANGUS

There was submitted [Report No 97/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services advising members of the development work which was about to commence regarding an employability framework for Angus and requesting authority to tender, should the Council be successful in securing sufficient funding from the Scottish Executive and local partners to develop the framework across the area.

The Report indicated that throughout Scotland, there were high levels of both employment and low unemployment, but challenges still required to be faced in assisting more people who were economically inactive to move into work by developing an employability framework.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note that a sum of £15,000 has been secured from the Scottish Executive in 2006/2007 to assist with the development of an employability framework in Angus, and that there was a potential for additional monies from other partners who were represented on the Strategic Working Group referred to in Section 5.3 of the Report;
- (iii) to authorise the Head of Economic Development in consultation with the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration, to invite consultants to tender for the development of the Angus Employability Framework, to short list and interview consultants;
- (iv) to approve exemption under Financial Regulation 16.3.2(a) from the normal tendering process in respect of (ii) above;
- (v) to instruct that a report on the appointment of the successful contractor be submitted to the Executive Sub-Committee of this Committee, having regard to the timescales involved with the tendering process; and
- (vi) to approve a contribution of up to £5,000 from the Economic Development Revenue budget for 2006/2007.

25. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE WORKING FOR FAMILIES FUND

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 March 2006, there was submitted [Report No 99/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services advising members of progress achieved within the first six months of the Working for Families Initiative.

The Report indicated that this Initiative, which was aimed at assisting parents of targeted families back into employment, had made a difference for families living within Angus on low incomes. Systems were in place to ensure that the funds reached those who were most in need and the Working for Families Team had made significant progress towards meeting the targets.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

26. ANGUS PORTAL WEBSITE - EXTENSION TO CONTRACT

There was submitted [Report No 100/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services seeking approval to extend the contract for the development of the Angus Portal Website to include specific enhancements aimed at increasing its scope and appeal to overseas visitors.

The Report indicated that the Portal had a successful year since its launch in May 2005 and was the subject of continuous development and upgrading.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the significant progress being made by the Angus Portal Website in terms of visitor usage visitors;
- (ii) to authorise the Head of Economic Development to proceed with the specific enhancements detailed in the Report, with the estimated costs of £38,000 being met from the Departmental Capital budget for 2007/2008; and
- (iii) to approve awarding of the contract to either of the existing suppliers of services to the Portal in terms of Financial Regulation 16.3.4, as agreed by the Exemptions Co-ordinator.

27. THE HAIRST 2006 AND 2007

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee of 23 January 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 70/07](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Infrastructure Services describing the activities, programme, promotion and outcomes of the 2006 Summer Arts Festival and outlining proposals for The Hearst 2007.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the proposals for The Hearst 2007.

28. 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 the undernoted item, so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraph 9.

29. ARBROATH HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of this Committee of 20 October 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 103/07](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services and the Director of Corporate Services updating members on the construction of the Harbour Visitor Centre at Arbroath Harbour.

The Report indicated that the contractor had submitted a claim for a further extension of time to the end of April 2007 for completion of this particular project which has still to be fully assessed.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations as detailed in the Report.