

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 21 August 2008 at 4.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors JIM MILLAR, COLIN BROWN, ALISON ANDREWS, HELEN OSWALD, MAIRI EVANS, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, BOB MYLES, BILL MIDDLETON, DONALD MORRISON, RUTH LESLIE MELVILLE MBE, MARK SALMOND, BOB SPINK, MARGARET THOMSON, ALEX KING and SANDY WEST.

Councillor MILLAR, Convener, in the Chair.

### 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Frank Ellis, David May, Peter Nield and Sheena Welsh with Councillors Helen Oswald, Bob Myles, Ruth Leslie Melville MBE, and Alex King substituting respectively.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Leslie Melville declared an interest in item 32 as a friend of the late Mrs Waterston.

In terms of the Employee Code of Conduct, Norma Lawson, Committee Officer, declared an interest in item 36 as the owner of one of the properties receiving an improvement/adaptations grant and intimated that she would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

### 3. MINUTES

#### (a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 May 2008](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

#### (b) Executive Sub-Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of this Committee of 24 July 2008](#), a copy of which was appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

### 4. HOUSING CAPITAL AND PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME – HRA BLOCK – 2007/2008

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 May 2008, there was submitted [Report No 737/08](#) by the Director of Corporate Services setting out the actual spend on the HRA Capital and Planned Maintenance Programmes for the period to 30 June 2008, together with year end spend projections and updated funding proposals.

The Report advised that the actual spend achieved to 30 June 2008 on the Housing Capital Programme was £1.864 million which equated to 18.9% of the original budget of £9.850 million. It was projected at this time that by the end of the 2008/2009 financial year, expenditure would amount to some £10.146 million which would represent an overspend of £296,000. This projection was based on actual spend level for the first three months of the financial year only and would be subject to further review as the year progressed.

With regard to the 2008/2009 Planned Maintenance Programme, the level of spend on all elements for the period to 30 June 2008 amounted to £254,000 which equated to 11.7% of the original budget of £2.180 million. It was projected at this time that, by the end of the 2008/2009 financial year, expenditure would amount to some £2.449 million which would represent an overspend of £269,000. The main reasons for this projected overspend were slippage of £134,000 from 2007/2008 in respect of the Door Replacement Programme and additional pre-painting repairs required in respect of the Re-Paints Programme. As with the Capital Programme the projections were based on the actual spend level for the first three months of the financial year and would be subject to review as the year progressed. However, were the

currently projected overspend on the Planned Maintenance Programme to be the actual position at the end of the financial year, it was likely that the additional funding required would be met from HRA balances.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the expenditure figures presented for the Housing Capital and Planned Maintenance Programmes for the period to 30 June 2008;
- (ii) to note the capital receipts position for the period to 30 June 2008;
- (iii) to note the projected year end capital and planned maintenance expenditure positions and the associated update of potential funding as detailed in the Report;
- (iv) to note that the relevant officers were endeavouring to identify measures to manage the currently projected capital programme and planning maintenance programme overspends within overall available resources; and
- (iii) to note that the updated position including any corrective actions would be incorporated within future reports to Members.

## **5. COUNCIL HOUSE SALES**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 May 2008, there was submitted and noted [Report No 738/08](#) by the Director of Corporate Services detailing individual Council house sales for the first quarter of 2008/2009 to 30 June 2008.

## **6. IMPROVEMENT/REPAIRS GRANT APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 May 2008, there was submitted and noted [Report No 739/08](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services detailing grant applications in respect of improvement, repairs, window and gutter replacement and town centre refurbishments, all of which had been approved under delegated authority for the period 1 April - 30 June 2008.

## **7. SERIOUS ARREARS CASES – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TENANTS**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 May 2008, there was submitted [Report No 740/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services regarding serious rent arrears cases in respect of 11 Council house tenants as detailed in Appendix A of the Report.

The Committee agreed that all the cases detailed in Appendix A be monitored and approval be given to evict if regular payments to reduce the arrears were not received.

## **8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - WRITE OFF OF RENT IN 2007/2008**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 11 October 2007, there was submitted [Report No 741/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services on the Housing Revenue Account Rent Arrears for 2007/2008 which it was proposed be written off.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to write off as irrecoverable, the cases set out in the Appendix to the Report totalling £120,842.67.

## 9. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

With reference to Article 17 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 February 2008, there was submitted [Report No 742/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services advising the Committee of the production of the 2007/2008 Annual Report for the Neighbourhood Services Department, a copy of which was attached to the Report.

The Report indicated that, previously, service plans had reviewed progress against the previous year's service plan but this information, together with other general and performance information about the Department, would now be included in an Annual Report by each Director which would be submitted to the relevant Committee after the financial year end. A standard format had been adopted for the annual reports to ensure consistency of approach across the Council.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the terms of the Neighbourhood Services Department Annual Report 2007/2008.

## 10. COMMON ALLOCATION POLICY BETWEEN ANGUS COUNCIL AND HILLCREST HOUSING ASSOCIATION.

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Housing Committee of 21 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 743/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval to adopt the Common Allocation Policy between Angus Council and Hillcrest Housing Association, a copy of which was appended to the Report.

The Report indicated that the policy was essential to ensure a co-ordinated approach to meeting local housing need and further consolidate the commitment of housing associations in tackling homelessness. It was important that the Council and Hillcrest Housing Association had a common allocation policy which met legislative and best practice requirements but which also reflected the housing needs of applicants in Angus.

COUNCILLOR MILLAR, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BROWN, MOVED THAT THE PROPOSED COMMON ALLOCATION POLICY AS APPENDED TO THE REPORT BE APPROVED AND ADOPTED.

Councillor Bill Middleton, seconded by Councillor Morrison, moved, as an amendment, that, in relation to the duty to homeless households, two offers be made to applicants with a homeless priority.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Millar, Brown, Andrews, Fairweather, Myles, Leslie Melville, Salmond, Spink and Thomson (9);

For the amendment:

Councillors Oswald, Evans, Bill Middleton, Morrison, King and West (6).

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

Following further discussion, the Committee agreed to note that the Director of Neighbourhood Services would prepare a leaflet on frequently asked questions relating to the Common Allocation Policy which would be issued to all elected members.

## 11. CONSULTATION ON THE HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006

There was submitted [Report No 744/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services advising the Committee of the consultation on the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 and seeking homologation of Angus Council's response, a copy of which was appended to the Report.

The Report indicated that the main purpose of the Act was to address through encouragement and, where necessary, enforcement, problems of condition and quality in private sector housing, both owner/occupied and privately rented (although some provisions also related to the social rented sector). The underlying principles were that owners had primary responsibility for maintaining the houses, with assistance available where necessary; landlords should provide houses that were suitable and in good condition; and in order to improve the condition of private housing: (a) it was important for local authorities to deal with the issue; (b) they should have flexibility to allow local solutions; and (c) they should adopt a strategic approach.

The Report concluded that the consultation represented the beginning of a period of strategic development for Angus Council. It had previously invested the entire private sector housing grant resources in improving property conditions and meeting the needs of those who required their houses adapted. The Act would require a refreshed approach to managing the Council's position with regard to private sector housing stock and would require considerable and detailed further discussions as more details emerged from the consultation exercise.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to homologate the response to the consultation submitted to the Scottish Government; and
- (iii) to note that further reports would be brought back to Committee as the detail from the consultation exercise emerged.

## 12. CONSULTATION ON REGULATIONS UNDER S32A OF THE HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1987

There was submitted [Report No 745/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services setting out Angus Council's response to the Proposed Regulation to be made under Section 32A of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, which was contained in the Scottish Government's Consultation Paper on the use of the Private Sector for discharging duty to unintentionally homeless people in priority need.

The Report indicated that Section 32A of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, as inserted by Section 3 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, gave Scottish Ministers the power to prescribe circumstances in which "permanent" accommodation need not be provided to unintentionally homeless households assessed as having a priority need. The 2002 Regulations made under Section 32A of the 1987 Act could only be invoked in a tightly defined set of circumstances. Following an internal review, it had been found that current usage was limited and the Regulations not widely known or understood. Accordingly, the consultation paper presented proposals to revise the language used in the 2002 Regulations to clarify the policy intention and the anticipated outcomes for homeless households and to develop practice guidance.

The Report concluded that, overall, Angus Council supported the proposal to increase the use of private rented sector housing for discharging its duty to unintentionally homeless households in priority need. This sector could provide greater flexibility, choice and quality to applicant's given insufficient social rented housing in Angus. Although the Council had concerns due to affordability, the provision of housing support and the "opt-in" clause, it was believed these concerns could be alleviated from a comprehensive assessment of the applicant's needs and a possible review of current benefit regulation. Without making better use of the private rented sector, the Council would struggle to meet the 2012 target for homeless people and housing need in general.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the response for submission to the Scottish Government, a copy of which was appended to the Report.

### **13. EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL WORKERS IN ANGUS**

There was submitted [Report No 746/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services outlining the findings of research carried out into the European and International Communities population in Angus from September 2007 to February 2008, which was an attempt to establish baseline information on the size of the various European and International Worker Communities in Angus, whilst also collecting the information on their housing needs and aspirations.

The Report indicated that with the completion of this research, the findings of which were appended to the Report, the Council had taken important steps towards establishing reliable baseline information on the size, characteristics and housing needs and aspirations of the European and International Worker population in Angus. However, further research was now required to fully quantify the housing/accommodation needs and aspirations of two distinct groups within the European and International Worker population in Angus, namely, short-term and long-term migrants. Updates on the findings of the follow-up research and the development of a strategy/plan to address the accommodation/housing needs of the European and International Worker population in Angus would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve further work to be undertaken to investigate the options available to address the housing needs identified and incorporate this into the Council's updated Local Housing Strategy; and
- (iii) to note that further reports would be brought before Committee to update Members on progress with this area of work.

### **14. HOUSING POSITION ON SCOTLAND'S VETERANS AND FORCES - MEETING THEIR WELL-BEING AND WELFARE NEEDS**

There was submitted [Report No 747/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking agreement to the housing position suggested in the Report on the well-being and welfare needs of members of the armed forces.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Government was consulting with key stakeholders on its approach to delivering services to armed forces personnel, veterans, and their families, in areas such as healthcare, housing, education and transport. It was important that those for whom these services were intended were involved in this discussion at an early stage. The consultation paper set out, for each broad policy area, some context, i.e. what the Scottish Government was already doing; actions that it intended to implement; and a series of proposals on which further discussion was required.

The Council's suggested response to the consultation paper was detailed within the Report and indicated that it was willing to add its very real support to the Government's public support and recognition of the contribution of the armed forces as it believed that this national recognition was long overdue. The national efforts to raise the positive profile of the forces and of the desire to recognise the long-term impacts that required long-term and real support after service were to be applauded. The Report set out a wide ranging package of local support that went further than the consultation in recognition of the very special historic and continuing links Angus had with the armed forces.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the housing position suggested within the Report on the well-being and welfare needs of members of the armed forces.

#### **15. UTILISATION OF “COUNCIL TAX SECOND HOMES” FUNDING**

With reference to Article 36 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 3 February 2005, there was submitted [Report No 748/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval for a re-statement of the Council's priorities for the investment of resources from the Affordable Housing Revenue Account.

The Report indicated that at a time when the Scottish Government was seeking increased efficiencies in the delivery of new affordable housing, and a reduction in the levels of subsidy provided per unit constructed, it was advantageous for the Council to re-affirm its priorities for the expenditure of resources from the Affordable Housing Revenue Account. By re-affirming in-principle priorities which were detailed in the Report, the Council would signal its intention to support the delivery of strategically important new developments of affordable housing in Angus, even when there were exceptional costs to be met. The Council's commitment to the delivery of high quality affordable housing for the people of Angus was also re-affirmed.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve, in principle, the expenditure of funds from the Councils' Affordable Housing Revenue Account in accordance with the priorities set out in the Report; and
- (iii) to note that Reports regarding the use of funds would be brought forward to Committee for approval as uses were identified.

#### **16. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY - RESPONSIBILITIES AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

There was submitted [Report No 749/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services outlining the Neighbourhood Services Policy, Responsibilities and Management Arrangements for health and safety.

The Report indicated that, following a re-organisation within the Council in 2005, and the creation of the Neighbourhood Services Department there was a requirement to rationalise the policies, responsibilities and management arrangements of the three former departments involved in restructure namely Housing, Leisure and Contract Services. As a result, the department had developed a revised statement of policy, responsibilities and scheme of management across the department, a copy of which was appended to the Report. This would form the basis for the detailed working departmental arrangements and given the broad range of activities of the department, there would be specialist areas of health and safety procedure and documentation at divisional and business unit level. It was proposed that this would be brought together in one health and safety manual for the department which would be available primarily in electronic form on the departmental intranet but also in specific locations in hard copy.

The Committee agreed to approve the Health and Safety Policy, Responsibilities and Management Arrangements proposed for the Neighbourhood Services Department.

#### **17. ANGUS ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 14 August 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 690/08](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health, the Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Chief Executive presenting the Angus Adult Protection Committee Annual Report for 2007/2008.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Angus Adult Protection Committee Annual Report 2007/2008.

**18. ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AND BUSINESS PLAN 2007/2008**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 14 August 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 692/08](#) by the Chief Executive, the Director of Social Work and Health, the Director of Education and the Director of Neighbourhood Services presenting the Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report and Business Plan 2007/2008.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report and Business Plan 2007/2008.

**19. DISPOSAL OF AREA OF GROUND AT 40 WESTWOOD WALK, MONTROSE**

There was submitted [Report No 750/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval for the disposal of an area of ground at 40 Westwood Walk, Montrose.

The Committee agreed, subject to Section 12 Consent being received from Scottish Ministers and planning permission for change of use being granted:-

- (i) that the area of ground adjacent to 40 Westwood Walk, Montrose be sold to the owners of 40 Westwood Walk, Montrose for the sum of £2,000 on appropriate terms and conditions; and
- (ii) that the purchaser be responsible for meeting all the Council's legal and survey costs.

**20. DISPOSAL OF AREA OF GROUND AT 12 LITTLE NURSERY, MONTROSE**

There was submitted [Report No 751/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval for the disposal of an area of ground at 12 Little Nursery, Montrose.

The Committee agreed, subject to Section 12 Consent being received from Scottish Ministers and planning permission for change of use being granted:-

- (i) that the area of ground adjacent to 12 Little Nursery, Montrose be sold to the owners of 12 Little Nursery, Montrose for the sum of £2,000 on appropriate terms and conditions; and
- (ii) that the purchaser be responsible for meeting all the Council's legal and survey costs.

**21. SERVITUDE RIGHT OF ACCESS AT 2 WATSON WATT PLACE, BRECHIN**

There was submitted [Report No 752/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval to grant a servitude right of access at 2 Watson Watt Place, Brechin.

The Committee agreed, subject to Section 12 Consent being received from Scottish Ministers:-

- (i) that a servitude right of access be granted to the owners of 2 Watson Watt Place, Brechin for the sum of £400 on appropriate terms and conditions; and
- (ii) that the applicant be responsible for meeting all the Council's legal and survey costs.

**22. CORRECTIVE CONVEYANCING AT 16 HILLVIEW CRESCENT, FERRYDEN, MONTROSE**

There was submitted [Report No 753/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services relating to corrective conveyancing which was required in connection with the sale of 16 Hillview Crescent, Ferryden, Montrose.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve corrective conveyancing to allow ownership of the two areas of ground at 16 Hillview Crescent, Ferryden, Montrose to be transferred to the owner of 16 Hillview Crescent, Ferryden, Montrose at no cost and all legal costs being met from the Housing Revenue Account.

### **23. DISPOSAL OF PARK HOMES**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 April 2008, there was submitted [Report No 754/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services relating to the disposal of Park Homes in Montrose and Brechin.

The Report indicated that the Mountains Animal Sanctuary, Milton of Ogil, Glenogil, by Forfar had asked the Housing Division for a loan of one of the temporary housing units known as Park Homes to be used as staff facilities. The Montrose and District Cricket and Rugby Club had also asked for a loan of two Park Homes to be used as additional changing facilities. The Letham Drama Group had requested a loan of one Park Home for a replacement prop hut. While the Parkview Bowling Club in Brechin had requested the loan of one Park Home for changing accommodation to replace their existing shed. These temporary loan arrangements would be on a similar basis to those already agreed previously.

The Committee agreed, subject to Section 12 Consent being received from Scottish Ministers:-

- (i) that one Park Home from the site at Brechin be lent, on a temporary basis, to the Mountains Animal Sanctuary, near Forfar;
- (ii) that two Park Homes from the site at Montrose be lent, on a temporary basis, to the Montrose and District Cricket and Rugby Club;
- (iii) that one Park Home from the site at Brechin be lent, on a temporary basis, to the Letham Drama Group;
- (iv) that one Park Home be lent, on a temporary basis, to the Parkview Bowling Club, Brechin; and
- (v) that the above parties be wholly responsible for uplifting, transporting, and obtaining all necessary consents for their re-use elsewhere, and all future maintenance, at no cost to the Council.

### **24. LAIRD STREET, MONIFIETH**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Housing Committee of 18 January 2007, there was submitted [Report No 755/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services updating the Committee on progress with the development of the Laird Street development site and seeking approval to purchase the site in the terms outlined in the Report.

The Report indicated that through active and on-going partnership with Tayside Police, the opportunity to purchase a site in the middle of one of Angus' areas of significant housing pressure had been presented. The intention was to develop 2/3 one and a half storey amenity houses designed to fit in with the existing houses.

Having heard members welcome the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the purchase of the site at Laird Street, Monifieth at the valuation of £95,000, subject to Angus Council securing change of use and planning permission for 2/3 one and a half storey amenity houses.

**25. REVOCATION OF CLOSING ORDER**

There was submitted [Report No 757/08](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services regarding the revocation of a Closing Order made by Angus Council on 2 April 1998.

The Committee agreed that the Closing Order in respect of the ground flood flat, namely 41b Hill Street, Arbroath be revoked, following works having been undertaken to bring the property up to the tolerable standard as described in the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987.

**26. REFURBISHMENT OF FITNESS SUITE AND GENERAL PURPOSE AREA AT ARBROATH SPORTS CENTRE**

There was submitted [Report No 758/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval to take forward the refurbishment of the current fitness suite and upper general purpose area at Arbroath Sports Centre.

The Report indicated that the Arbroath Sports Centre currently provided a small fitness suite, the equipment at which was now beyond its normal life expectancy and was attracting increasing maintenance costs. It was likely that certain items might need to be withdrawn from the existing service provision over the forthcoming year. The outcome of this had been a drop in users in respect of the service provision at this facility, a position which contrasted with the wider Angus Council trend which indicated on-going user growth especially at refurbished facilities.

With regard to the cafeteria located in the upper floor of the facility, it was no longer used for its intended purpose which had been the case for approximately ten years with the area now enjoying limited use by the Education Department. Notwithstanding the need to regenerate this area of the facility, there was a current maintenance requirement to replace existing flooring. The Report detailed the proposed refurbishment and replacement works with specific refurbishment works being outlined in Appendix 1 (Fitness Suite Refurbishment) and Appendix 2 (Cafe Area).

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the refurbishment of the fitness suite and general purpose area at Arbroath Sports Centre; and
- (iii) to note that the Sports and Countryside division would maintain a rolling refurbishment programme for all its existing fitness suites.

**27. INTRODUCTION OF A MEMBERSHIP RETENTION INITIATIVE IN RESPECT OF SPORTS AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES B ACTIVE (DIRECT DEBIT MEMBERSHIP) SCHEME**

There was submitted [Report No 759/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval for the implementation of a membership retention initiative in respect of bActive (Direct Debit Membership).

The Report indicated that the current sports services environment was becoming more competitive with a growing number of organisations trying to both maintain and increase their market share. It was therefore crucial that Angus Council was as competitive as possible, within this service area, and put itself in a position where it could retain current market share and, where the opportunity arose, increase its membership base. In order to achieve this aim, the Sports and Countryside division aimed to introduce a membership retention initiative for bActive members who continued to use the Council's sports facilities. The structure of the initiative was detailed in the Report, the main aim of which was to endeavour to increase the current average length of membership of approximately nine months substantially by rewarding members who remained loyal to the scheme. The initiative would be open to all members from its implementation or when they took up membership whichever date was later and would be available to all members both standard and concessionary.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the introduction of a membership retention initiative for bActive members as detailed in the Report; and
- (iii) to note the importance of customer retention and the benefits that might derive from the retention of bActive members.

## 28. MONIFIETH GOLF LINKS

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee of 25 January 2005, there was submitted [Report No 760/08](#) by the Director of Corporate Services seeking endorsement of the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association of a Company Limited by Guarantee called "Monifieth Golf Links Limited" which would replace the current Committee of Management.

The Report indicated that the negotiations which had taken place between the Council and the Solicitors for the four golf clubs involved namely, Broughty Golf Club, Grange Golf Club, Monifieth Golf Club and Panmure Ladies Golf Club had resulted in what was considered to be an acceptable style of Memorandum and Articles of Association for the proposed new company, "Monifieth Golf Links Limited". There would be a Management Agreement entered into in due course between the Council and the company and it was suggested that powers be given to the Head of Law and Administration and the Director of Neighbourhood Services to finalise the terms

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the principal terms of the Memorandum of Articles of Association of a new company to be known as "Monifieth Golf Links Limited" which would take over responsibility for the future management of Monifieth Golf Links;
- \* (iii) to remit to the Council the nomination of the appropriate persons to take up the role of Directors within that company;
- (iv) to remit to the Head of Law and Administration and the Director of Neighbourhood Services the completion of any Management Agreement with the company; and
- (v) to decline the request by the Clubs to transfer the ownership of the courses to the new company.

## 29. ANGUS STEERING GROUP - COMMONWEALTH GAMES, GLASGOW 2014

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee of 6 March 2007, there was submitted [Report No 761/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval to form a Member/Officer Steering Group to consider all aspects associated with the success of Glasgow's bid to host the Commonwealth Games in 2014 and the potential impact for the Angus area.

The Report indicated that Glasgow was currently examining opportunities to maximise the impact of the games, before, during and after the 11 days of competition. It was therefore proposed that Angus establish a Member/Officer Steering Group to examine the impact of the Games from a more local perspective.

The proposed remit of the Group would be to explore and evaluate issues from Angus surrounding the awarding of the 2014 Commonwealth Games to Glasgow; to identify opportunities for Angus to attract teams of squads to train and compete within the local area; to assist with identification and recruitment of volunteers with an interest in sporting opportunities;

and to examine the legacy opportunities for Angus arising from the interest in sport with the Glasgow Games and the London Olympic success for 2012.

The proposed membership of the Steering Group would be the Conveners of Neighbourhood Services, Education, Corporate Services and Infrastructure Services Committees together with three other members. Membership would also include three officers from Neighbourhood Services, one officer from Education, one officer for Economic Development, one officer from External Funding and one officer from Public Relations, with others including representatives from the Volunteer Centre and Tayside Police.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the formation of a Member/Officer Steering Group to examine the impact of the Commonwealth Games 2014 from a local perspective;
- (iii) to approve the proposed composition of the Steering Group above as being Conveners of Neighbourhood Services, Education and Committee Services and Infrastructure Services Committee and Councillors Spink, Gaul and Bill Middleton.
- (iv) to approve the proposed remit for the Steering Group.

### **30. CREMATION CASKET LAIRS FOR THE INTERMENT OF STILLBORN CHILDREN OR NON VIABLE FOETUS**

There was submitted [Report No 762/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services relating to the cremation casket lairs for the interment of stillborn children or non viable foetus.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to offer cremation casket lairs at any burial ground for the interment of stillborn children or non viable foetuses at no cost other than the charges associated with the Lair Registry Certificate and subsequently with the lair being closed after one interment.

### **31. MUSEUMS ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL POLICY AMENDMENTS**

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee of 23 January 2007, there was submitted [Report No 763/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services informing the Committee that Museums Galleries Scotland (formerly the Scottish Museums Council) had advised that the Angus Council Museums Acquisition and Disposal Policy should be amended to take account of guidance from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council issued in April 2008.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the proposed changes to the Museums Acquisition and Disposal Policy for the years 2007-2011, as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

### **32. THE DAVID WATERSON COLLECTION**

There was submitted [Report No 764/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services advising the Committee that the Brechin Museum collection contained a number of works of art by David Waterson, RE most of which had been donated by his widow. The Report detailed the background and the management of the Waterson Collection.

The Report indicated that an exhibition of the complete Waterson Collection had been held to coincide with Brechin Arts Festival in 2007 in Brechin Town House Museum and had attracted a total of 1,576 visitors. As part of the Brechin Townscape Heritage Initiative, Brechin Town

House would close in October 2008 for complete refurbishment and, on reopening later in 2009, the David Waterson Collection would be housed in the building. As well as works on display, all the Waterson images would be accessible on the museum website and on the Adlib computerised catalogue. An Appendix of the complete Waterson Collection was attached to the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the Waterson Collection having a dedicated area on the Council's website; and
- (iii) to thank Norman Atkinson, Senior Service Manager and the staff of Cultural Services for their contribution to the management of the Collection.

### **33. EXTENSION OF UNPLANNED REPAIRS CONTRACTS**

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of the Housing Committee of 18 February 2003, there was submitted [Report No 765/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval to extend the Unplanned Repair Contracts of council houses and flats up to the end of the financial year 2010.

The Report indicated that the provision of an efficient and responsive repairs service was a vital service to Council house tenants and all avenues to improve this service should be explored before entering into new contracts. As the timescale for investigating these options required longer than the remaining period under the existing contracts, an extension to all 28 current contracts was sought, subject to agreement with the existing contractors. The Agreement would have to reflect price increases appropriate to the 2009/2010 year in line with each trade to ensure the current repairs service continued to deliver satisfactory performance.

The Committee agreed to approve the extension, for a further year, by negotiation, from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, of the existing Unplanned Repair contracts for council houses as current performance was satisfactory.

### **34. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 27(2) that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following items, so as to avoid the possible disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraphs 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9.

### **35. CONVERSION OF PROPERTIES AT NORAN AVENUE, ARBROATH**

There was submitted [Report No 756/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval to reconfigure two existing Council properties to form one large dwelling in order to adequately accommodate a homeless family which included one child with a complex disability. This would ensure compliance with the Council's obligation to provide specially adapted housing and discharge its duties under the Homelessness (Scotland) Act 2003.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the reconfiguration of the two properties in Noran Avenue, Arbroath to form one dwelling at a cost of £100,000 in order to meet the housing needs of a large family with complex housing needs.

**36. IMPROVEMENTS/ADAPTATIONS GRANT APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

With reference to Article 6 above, there was submitted [Report No 766/08](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services detailing grant applications in respect of improvements and adaptations, all of which had been approved under delegated authority for the period 1 April to 30 June 2008, in respect of vulnerable people.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.