

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 6 May 2008 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors BOB MYLES, IAN MACKINTOSH, FRANK ELLIS, IAIN GAUL, ALEX KING, DAVID MAY, RUTH LESLIE MELVILLE MBC, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, JIM MILLAR, PETER MURPHY, BILL MIDDLETON, HELEN OSWALD, MARK SALMOND, SHEENA WELSH and JOHN WHYTE.

Councillor MYLES, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Murray, with Councillor Bill Middleton substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor May declared an interest in item 3(b) as his wife worked in South Esk Primary School.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 18 March 2008](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Monitoring Group

The [minute of meeting of the Monitoring Group of 15 April 2008](#) was submitted and noted.

(c) Sounding Board

The [minute of meeting of the Sounding Board of 15 April 2008](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

4. PROGRESS REPORT ON PHASE 2 MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 September 2006, there was submitted [Report No 432/08](#) by the Chief Executive updating members on the Phase 2 Management Review and highlighting the key issues likely to influence service design and delivery arrangements for the Council over the next few years.

The Report indicated that considerable changes had been introduced under what had been termed Phase 2 of the management restructure. Other significant pieces of work which could lead to further change to service design and delivery were still progressing, in particular the shared services diagnostic exercise, the waste management review, the service redesign projects within Social Work and Health and the development of improved procurement arrangements.

The Report indicated that it was clear there were a number of challenges facing all Councils which might lead to further, and indeed substantial changes in the way that this and other Councils delivered services in the future. The review of structures, service design and delivery and business processes had to be seen as an ongoing process to ensure that the organisation remained fit for purpose and was flexible enough to meet the challenges which continued to be placed on the Council.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

5. ESTABLISHMENT CHANGES

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 18 March 2008, there was submitted and noted [Report No 448/08](#) by the Chief Executive summarising changes to the Corporate Services, Education, Infrastructure Services, Neighbourhood Services and Social Work and Health establishments during the period 17 February to 31 March 2008.

6. CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 March 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 471/08](#) by the Director of Infrastructure Services and the Director of Corporate Services bringing forward a Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan aimed at reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and energy costs for the Council.

The Report indicated that the proposed Carbon Management Programme Action Plan, as appended to the Report, had a potential to reduce annual emissions of CO₂ by at least 15% by 2012. A range of projects to achieve the reduction were included in the Strategy and Implementation Plan with some projects incurring no or low financial cost whilst others required investment in order to reap ongoing financial savings as well as CO₂ emission reductions.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (iii) to thank all the staff involved for their input into the Strategy.

7. PARKS AND CEMETERIES RENEWAL AND REPAIR FUND - PROGRAMME OF WORK 2008-2009

With reference to Article 4(b)(v) of the minute of the special meeting of Angus Council of 27 February 2008, there was submitted [Report No 472/08](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services advising the Committee of the establishment of a Parks and Cemeteries Renewal and Repair Fund providing a Policy Statement in relation to the management of the Fund.

The Report indicated that as part of the 2008/2009 budget setting exercise, £400,000 had been allocated to replace the dormant Equipment Renewal and Repair Fund with the Parks and Cemeteries Renewal and Repair Fund.

Appended to the Report was a policy statement which reflected the needs of the Fund while operating within the corporate framework that existed for Renewal and Repair Funds. The statement would enable the appropriate application of the Fund and allow the Fund to be managed in a manner that delivered its intended outcome.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the establishment of a specific Parks and Cemeteries Renewal and Repair Fund to replace the Equipment Renewal and Repair Fund with access to be the Fund being made available with immediate effect;
- (iii) to note the contents of the Policy Statement as appended to the Report;
- (iv) to approve the implementation of the Policy Statement regarding the operation of the Parks and Cemeteries Renewal and Repair Fund, as set out in Appendix I to the Report; and
- (v) to approve the 2008/2009 Programme of Works as set out in Section 5 of the Report.

8. CLERK TO LIEUTENANCY OF ANGUS

The Committee was advised that the Lord Lieutenant for Angus, Mrs Georgiana Osborne, had reported that the present Clerk to the Lieutenancy, Mr Mike Blair, was retiring with effect from 30 April 2008. Mrs Osborne had invited the Chief Executive of the Council to take on the duties of this post with effect from 1 May 2008. This had been agreed.

The work of the Clerk to the Lieutenancy would be undertaken on his behalf by the Chief Executive's Support Manager. This was in line with the arrangements in many other local authority areas throughout the country. The additional costs involved, which would be minimal, would be contained within the Chief Executive's Revenue Budget.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the position; and
- (ii) to pay tribute to Mr Blair for his work in his capacity as Clerk to the Lieutenancy and to wish him well for the future.

9. EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATION FOR A RURAL TOURISM PROJECT

Having heard from the Director of Infrastructure Services, the Committee agreed to defer consideration to the Council meeting on 15 May 2008.