

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar, on Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors BOB SPINK, BRIAN BOYD, BILL BOWLES, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, JEANETTE GAUL, JIM HOUSTON, IAN MCLAREN, ROB MURRAY, BOB MYLES, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE and MARK SALMOND.

Councillor SPINK, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2015 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY UPDATE

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2015, there was submitted Report No 119/15 by the Service Manager – Governance, providing the Audit Manager's update on the main findings of the Internal Audit Reports issued since the date of the last meeting.

Three Internal Audit Reports had been issued since the last Committee, these being:-

- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act
- Economic Development
- Carbon Reduction

The Report provided an update in relation to the 2014/15 Internal Audit Plan, a request for a deferral of the Transforming Angus (Benefit identification, tracking and realisation) audit from 2014/15 to 2015/16, Transforming Angus Programme Boards, Lean Reviews and Annual Internal Audit Planning.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the update on progress with the 2014/15 Internal Audit Plan; and
- (ii) to approve the deferral of a 2014/15 audit to 2015/16.

5. SICKNESS ABSENCE OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2014

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 January 2015, there was submitted Report No 120/15 by the Head of HR, IT and Organisational Development, advising of the level of sickness absence within the Council for the period 1 October to 31 December 2014.

The Report indicated that for all Council employees there had been a 2.26% decrease in the percentage of working days lost, when compared with the corresponding quarter in 2013/14. Overall the percentage of working days lost had increased this quarter compared to the previous quarter by 10.7%, a continuation of the increase from the last quarter which ended a 15 month period of reduced sickness absence levels. This increase was as a result of an increase in teacher absences by 4.9%. Local government employees' absences had reduced by 3%.

Appendix 1 gave a breakdown of figures by directorate, which was the first time it had been possible to give a "by directorate" breakdown on the basis of the Council's structure adopted on 1 April 2013.

The current format for reporting sickness absence would continue until the end of 31 March 2015 but a new format was currently under development and was likely to start reporting from 1 April 2015.

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the Report.

6. TRANSFORMING ANGUS PROGRAMME UPDATE

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 3 February 2015, there was submitted Report No 121/15 by the Strategic Director - Resources, providing a progress update in relation to the Council's Transforming Angus Change Programme.

The Report indicated that this was the first progress update that had provided the start-up phase of the programme, with sufficient time to be developed and progressed so that members were provided with a substantive update.

Attached as Appendix 7 to the Report was a detailed breakdown of current spend and commitments from the Transforming Angus Change Fund.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report which included the financial update in relation to the Transforming Angus Change Fund.

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2015/2016

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 27 March 2014, there was submitted Report No 122/15 by the Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance seeking approval of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for Angus Council for 2015/16.

The Report indicated that the purpose of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement was to develop borrowing, investment and debt rescheduling strategies for the forthcoming financial year based on prospects for interest rates. The strategies adopted took account of the current treasury position and treasury limits in force which would limit treasury risk and the treasury activities of the Council.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16, attached as Appendix A to the Report.

8. SCRUTINY PANEL REVIEWS

The Service Manager – Governance indicated that both scrutiny panels were progressing well and were working within the appropriate timescales. She advised that an email providing an update on progress would be issued to all elected members following the meeting.

The Convener intimated that he had attended a number of meetings and was satisfied with the progress of both scrutiny panels.

9. EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 April 2014, there was submitted Report No 123/15 by the Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance, presenting the External Auditor's Annual Audit Plan for Angus Council 2014/15.

The Report summarised the key challenges and risks facing Angus Council and set out the audit work that was proposed to be undertaken in 2014/15. Anne MacDonald, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland, highlighted various aspects of the Report.

Having heard from a number of members in relation to the audit fee for 2014/15, and further clarification from the Senior Audit Manager and the Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the fee for the 2014/15 audit of Angus Council and the charitable trusts was £249,700.

10. JOINT CARE INSPECTORATE AND HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT SCOTLAND REPORT ON SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of the special meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 10 March 2015, there was submitted Report No 124/15 by the Strategic Director - People, highlighting the publication of the Report of the Joint Inspection of Services for Older People in Angus, summarising the main findings and identifying the next steps to address the issues raised by the inspection.

The purpose of the inspection had been to find out how well the Health and Social Work Services Partnership between Angus Council and NHS Tayside delivered good personal outcomes for people who used services, and their carers; and if they could work together effectively to deliver high quality services to service users, which enabled them to be independent, and have a good sense of wellbeing; and to be well prepared for the legislative changes designed to get Health and Social Work Services to work closer together.

The summary of inspection findings were outlined in Section 4 of the Report and a copy of the final Report was attached as Appendix 2.

The Strategic Director – People highlighted a number of key areas and indicated that action plans would be submitted to the Shadow Integration Joint Board. Information reports would also be submitted to the Social Work and Health Committee, with update reports being submitted to this Committee, as necessary.

Having heard from the Convener, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the decisions made by the Social Work and Health Committee; as intimated by the Strategic Director – People;
- (ii) to note the contents of the Joint Inspection Report; and
- (iii) to commend the officers and staff involved in the delivery of services for Older People in Angus and also officers and staff involved in the inspection process.