

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 10 September 2015 at 2.04pm.

Present: Provost HELEN OSWALD, Depute Provost ALEX KING, Councillors BRIAN BOYD, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, MAIRI EVANS, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAIN GAUL, JEANETTE GAUL, MARTYN GEDDES, SHEILA HANDS, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, IAN MCLAREN, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, DONALD MORRISON, ROB MURRAY, BOB MYLES, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, EWAN SMITH, MARGARET THOMSON, PAUL VALENTINE and SHEENA WELSH.

PROVOST HELEN OSWALD, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Bill Bowles, Colin Brown, David Fairweather, David Lumgair, Mark Salmond and Bob Spink.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bill Duff and Jeanette Gaul declared an interest in item 15 (Report No 350/15) as they were Council appointed directors to the Shadow Board for Angus Alive. Both indicated that they would participate in any discussion and voting.

3. REQUESTS FOR A DEPUTATION

(i) Lewis Kermack

The Council noted that a request for a deputation had been received from Lewis Kermack of Gowanbank Developments in relation to item 10 on the agenda.

The Council resolved not to hear the deputation as the opportunity would be available for Mr Kermack along with any other interested parties to make representations through the formal planning process.

(ii) Jill Fotheringham

The Council noted that a request for a deputation had been received from Jill Fotheringham, Chairperson of the Flyover for the Laurencekirk Junction Campaign in relation to item 5 on the agenda.

The Council resolved to hear the deputation.

Ms Fotheringham addressed the meeting in support of the proposal for a flyover at the Laurencekirk Junction, urging the Scottish Government to progress this as a matter of urgency.

Following the deputation Ms Fotheringham withdrew to the public benches.

4. MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

(i) Minute of Previous Meeting

(a) Angus Council

The minute of meeting of Angus Council of 18 June 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(ii) Minutes of Committees**(b) Scrutiny and Audit Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 23 June 2015 was submitted and noted.

(c) Development Management Review Committee

The minute of meeting of the Development Management Review Committee of 9 July 2015 was submitted and noted.

(d) Development Standards Committee

The minute of meeting of the Development Standards Committee of 4 August 2015 was submitted and noted.

(e) Civic Licensing Committee

The minute of meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee of 6 August 2015 was submitted and noted.

(f) Children and Learning Committee

The minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 11 August 2015 was submitted and noted.

(g) Social Work and Health Committee

The minute of meeting of the Social Work and Health Committee of 11 August 2015 was submitted and noted.

(h) Development Management Review Committee

The minute of meeting of the Development Management Review Committee of 18 August 2015 was submitted and noted.

(i) Communities Committee

The minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 18 August 2015 was submitted and noted.

(j) Development Standards Committee

The minute of meeting of the Development Standards Committee of 25 August 2015 was submitted and noted.

(k) Scrutiny and Audit Committee

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 25 August 2015 was submitted and noted.

(l) Policy and Resources Committee

The minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 1 September 2015 was submitted and noted.

5. MOTION IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 24(1)**Laurencekirk Junction Flyover**

Councillor May had given notice of the following motion:-

“This Council calls on Chief Executive Richard Stiff to write to the First Minister to set a date to starting the work on a grade separated junction crossing the A90 at Laurencekirk.”

The Council unanimously resolved to approve the motion.

The Provost, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 11(1)(vii) ruled that the following item be determined as an urgent item of business due to the emerging refugee crisis.

6. MOTION IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 11(1)(VII)

Refugee Crisis

Provost Helen Oswald, seconded by Councillor Fotheringham moved that:-

“Angus Council confirms its intention to do all it can within existing resources, or with additional resources provided by the Scottish or UK Governments, to meet the needs of refugees relocated to Scotland by providing accommodation, education and other services so far as it is able.

The Council also commends the work of individuals and groups in our community who are working to assist those in need both in Scotland and overseas.”

Having heard from a number of members the Council unanimously resolved to approve the urgent motion.

7. VICE CONVENER OF TAYPLAN JOINT COMMITTEE

Members were advised that the Vice Convener of the TAYplan Joint Committee would be expected to come from Angus Council next year. The Councillors appointed to the TAYplan Joint Committee were Councillors Evans, Myles and Murray.

Accordingly, the Council was asked to nominate the Vice Convener from amongst those members.

The Council resolved to nominate Councillor Murray as Vice Convener of the TAYplan Joint Committee.

8. REVISIONS TO STANDING ORDERS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 18 June 2015, there was submitted Report No 344/15 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services making revisions to the Standing Orders, the Order of Reference of committees and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to reflect the changes to the Committee structure that had been approved by the Council on 18 June 2015.

The Report also clarified the statutory duties of the Chief Social Work Officer which were now detailed in the Scheme of Delegation to Officers and a number of other proposals were submitted specifically for approval.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the changes to the Standing Orders, the Order of Reference of Committees and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, which were as a consequence of the revised committee structure, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (iii) to note the changes to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers within the People directorate, which now detailed the statutory duties of the Chief Social Work Officer, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (iv) to approve the further revisions to the Standing Orders as detailed in Section 4 of the Report and Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (v) to note the revised Timetable of Meetings as detailed in Appendix 2.

9. SCRUTINY AND AUDIT PANEL REVIEW REPORTS

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 1 September 2015, there was submitted Report No 339/15 by the Service Manager – Governance presenting the reports of the second tranche of scrutiny panel reviews for consideration and agreement. Appended to the Report were the Scrutiny Panel Reviews of the Management Restructure and Transforming Angus (Appendix 1) and Improving Partnership Working (Appendix 2) both of which had been agreed by the Scrutiny and Audit Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee with the actions remitted to the relevant Strategic Directors for implementation.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to note that the Reports had been agreed by the Scrutiny and Audit and Policy and Resources Committees;
- (ii) to approve the Reports, recommendations and action plans, all contained in Appendices 1 and 2;
- (iii) to remit the actions to the relevant officers to implement; and
- (iv) to note that progress reports in relation to the discharge of the action plans would be considered by both the Policy and Resources Committee and the Scrutiny and Audit Committee.

10. POLICY PROCEDURES GUIDANCE ON DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEET EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

There was submitted Report No 345/15 by the Strategic Director – People proposing the adoption of guidance for assessing and calculating developer contributions to meet educational requirements arising from housing developments.

The adoption of the guidance would ensure that educational requirements were identified in a consistent manner and developers would be aware of the potential implications as early as possible in the planning process. The guidance would be used until such time as the Supplementary Guidance specified in Policy DS5 Developer Contributions of the Angus Local Development Plan was adopted by the Council.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to approve the principles of the guidance outlined in section 5 of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the adoption of the guidance until the Supplementary Guidance was prepared.

11. PROPOSED ANGUS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 14 May 2015, there was submitted Report No 346/15 by the Head of Planning and Place outlining the scale and nature of representations received in response to the publication of the Proposed Angus Local Development Plan; seeking agreement to the responses to unresolved representations; setting out the next steps towards the adoption of the Plan and recommending that the Council proceed to submission of the Proposed Plan and the Council's response to the unresolved issues (without notifiable modifications) to the Scottish Ministers to hold an examination.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to agree the responses to the representations received as set out in the series of Schedule 4 documents contained in Appendix 1;
- (ii) to agree the Schedule of Non-Notifiable Modifications to the Proposed Angus Local Development Plan (Appendix 2);

- (iii) to authorise the Head of Planning and Place to make changes to the format, appearance and technical details of the Schedule 4 documents and Schedule of Non-Notifiable Modifications prior to their submission;
- (iv) to agree that additional evidence, further supporting documents and responses to the representations received on the Environmental Report and Draft Action Programme should be brought before the Council in October for agreement prior to submission;
- (v) to approve the submission of the Proposed Plan, Schedule 4 documents, Schedule of Non-Notifiable Modifications and other associated documents together with the unresolved issues to the Scottish Ministers for examination; and
- (vi) to instruct the Head of Planning and Place to report back on the findings of the Examination in due course.

12. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016/17 TO 2019/20

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 19 June 2014, there was submitted Report No 347/15 by the Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance setting out the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy for Angus Council's General Fund Services incorporating the projected shortfall for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.

The Report indicated that the Strategy would be used flexibly and would be able to be adapted to changing circumstances. The intention was for the Strategy to provide a context and a basis which would enable better informed decisions to be made in the years ahead in relation to policy development, service provision and prioritised resource allocation.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and in particular the need to continue to plan over the medium term to meet the significant financial challenges which the Council would face in the next few years;
- (ii) to approve the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20 attached as Appendix A to the Report as a basis upon which to continue to take forward service planning and priority based budget setting for the period covered by the Strategy;
- (iii) to note that the Strategy may require to be adjusted to cope with changing circumstances; and
- (iv) to note the intention to update the Strategy on an annual basis so that the Council had a rolling 4 year financial strategy in place.

13. PRIORITY BASED BUDGETING – RESULTS FROM STAGE 1 WORKSHOP AND PROPOSED 2016/17 BUDGET STRATEGY

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 14 May 2015, there was submitted Report No 348/15 by the Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance advising members of the results from the recent priority based budgeting all Council workshop and seeking approval for a broad budget strategy for 2016/17 which officers would use to prepare a draft budget package for members to consider in November.

Attached as Appendix 1 to the Report was a summary of the results from the workshop and members answers to the set questions. These comments were a summary based on majority of views and common themes, however this did not represent a commitment to a particular course of action or any policy position for the Council.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to note the summary results from the priority based budgeting workshop as outlined in the Report and the interpretation of these results in recommending a broad budget strategy for 2016/17 budget setting process;

- (ii) to approve the broad budget strategy as set out in section 4.10 to 4.12 of the Report as a basis for officers to now prepare a draft budget package for 2016/17;
- (iii) to note that the draft budget package prepared by officers would be submitted for consideration to an all Council budget member/officer group meeting in November 2015; and
- (iv) to note that final sign off of the Council's 2016/17 revenue and capital budgets would take place in February 2016 in line with previous practice.

14. SERVICE REDESIGN – PAYMENT FACILITIES AT ACCESS OFFICES

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 12 February 2015, there was submitted Report No 349/15 by the Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance seeking agreement for a new model for facilitating payments by customers for Council Tax, housing rents and other sums due to be developed to replace the payment facilities currently provided through the Council's ACCESS Office network.

The Report indicated that the proposed new model would mean a significant reduction in the volume of transactions being conducted through ACCESS Offices. It was proposed that officers finalise and implement the staffing structure for the combined ACCESS and Libraries service on the basis that cash and cheque payments through ACCESS Offices would be discontinued with the new structure to be implemented for the start of Angus Alive on 1 December 2015.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to agree that a new model for enabling customers to make payments to the Council which replaces the facilities in ACCESS Offices be developed on a phased basis as outlined in Section 4 of the Report;
- (ii) to agree the approach to managing the staffing implications associated with those proposals as outlined in Section 5 of the Report; and
- (iii) to authorise the Strategic Director - Communities and the Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance to investigate and arrange the procurement of that new model of provision, subject to a further report being brought back to members for approval of the final details, procurement authority and proposed timescales for implementation.

15. FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL FOR CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES - UPDATE

With reference to Article 16 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 12 February 2015, there was submitted Joint Report No 350/15 by the Strategic Director – Communities and the Interim Head of Services to Communities providing the Council with an update on the Transforming Angus project for the future service delivery of Culture and Leisure Services through Angus Alive.

The Report indicated that the transfer of Culture and Leisure Services to Angus Culture and Leisure Trust would see the Council move from being a provider of core culture and leisure facilities and services, to an enabler. Whilst this was a significant shift, it was expected that a positive relationship would be developed and maintained and a positive partnership that extended beyond the terms of the written agreement would develop.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to note the progress against the recommendations contained in Report No 71/15;
- (ii) to note the appointment of the five Independent Directors to Angus Alive;
- (iii) to note the updated position on the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer for Angus Alive and delegate to the Strategic Director - Communities to make all necessary arrangements for recruitment and selection in conjunction with the Head of HR, IT and Organisational Development;

- (iv) to note the progress on the Business Case;
- (v) to agree that a full report on the Go Live decision for Angus Alive for 1 December 2015 be submitted to the meeting of Angus Council on 22 October 2015;
- (vi) to note that Union representatives had been fully briefed on the Report and its contents, with staff briefings having taken place in line with the Managing Change Policies; and.
- (vii) to agree that the names of the companies established for the delivery of Angus Alive which were registered with Companies House as Angus CLT Limited and Angus CLT (Trading) Limited were formally changed to Angus Alive and Angus Alive (Trading) Limited, respectively.