

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 19 November 2013 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors MAIRI EVANS, SHEILA HANDS, BILL BOWLES, BILL DUFF, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, IAIN GAUL, JEANETTE GAUL, MARTYN GEDDES, ALEX KING, IAN McLAREN, ROB MURRAY, ROBERT MYLES, RONNIE PROCTOR, MARK SALMOND and BOB SPINK.

Also in

Attendance: Councillor GLENNIS MIDDLETON

Councillor EVANS, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

VALEDICTORY

The Convener at this stage referred to the forthcoming retirement of Neil Prentice, Service Manager, Economic Development. The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mr Prentice for his service to the Council and wished him well in the future.

In accordance with Standing Order 36(2), the Committee agreed that the order of business be varied from that published in order that a local member, who was not a member of the Committee, could address the meeting in relation to traffic proposals at St James Road, Forfar.

3. WAITING RESTRICTIONS AT FORFAR AND MONTROSE

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 August 2013, there was submitted Report No 620/13 by the Strategic Director – Communities relating to proposed amendments to waiting restrictions at St James Road/East Sunnyside, Forfar and Castle Street/Seagate/Shore Wynd, Montrose that had been previously deferred to allow site visits to take place with local members and the relevant officers.

The Committee then heard from Councillor Glennis Middleton, a local member, who advocated the Committee did not proceed with the proposals for St James Road, Forfar.

Having heard from Councillor McLaren and the Convener in relation to the proposals at St James Road, Forfar, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) not to proceed with the proposals in relation to St James Road, Forfar;
- (ii) to approve the revised proposals at Castle Street/Seagate/Shore Wynd, Montrose; and
- (iii) to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order to effect the change to the current waiting restriction at Castle Street/Seagate/Shore Wynd, Montrose.

4. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 October 2013](#) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(b) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The [minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 6 September 2013](#), a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

5. TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT TEAM – INTERIM REPORT

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 November 2012, there was submitted [Report No 585/13](#) by the Chief Executive advising members of the progress towards outcomes achieved by the Towards Employment Team and its contribution to the delivery of employability services in Angus.

The Report indicated that the Towards Employment Team continued to review and adapt its service to meet the needs of local employers and provide low income individuals and families with the opportunity to play an active part in their community. The current economic climate presented many challenges for Angus and welfare reform and the introduction of universal credit would undoubtedly increase demand for Towards Employment Team services.

Having heard from Councillors Bowles and Hands, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcomes achieved by the Towards Employment Team (TET) for the period 1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013;
- (ii) to note the delivery of specialised bespoke employability programmes achieved in partnership through Angus Employability Partnership and local employers;
- (iii) to note the achievements made on the Employability Fund Programme;
- (iv) to note the TET involvement in delivery of the Digital Academy Pilot;
- (v) to note the success of TET in delivering modern apprenticeships;
- (vi) to note the commitment of Angus Council to provide modern apprenticeships;
- (vii) to note that details in relation to the breakdown of jobs included in modern apprenticeships be provided to all members of the Committee; and
- (viii) to congratulate the work of the Darlings Coffee Shop in Arbroath, a project which was being managed by Enable Scotland to provide additional training and equal opportunities for young people who had a learning disability in the Angus area.

6. CONSULTATION ON THE ASSISTED AREAS MAP 2014/2020

There was submitted [Report No 592/13](#) by the Chief Executive seeking homologation of the decision by the Chief Executive to submit a response to the UK Government in relation to consultation (Stage 1) on the Assisted Areas Map 2014/2020).

The Report indicated that the UK Government was currently reviewing the Assisted Area Maps in the UK. The map was the instrument that determined whether companies were eligible to apply for Capital Grant Assistance in the form of a Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) in Scotland and Regional Growth Fund in England.

Economic data suggested that overall, Angus was not a disadvantaged area when compared to many other areas in the UK, which meant that all of Angus, apart from a very small area bordering Dundee was deemed to be a "Tier 3 Area". As a result, large companies with over 250 employees could not bid for RSA to support investment projects in Angus.

A copy of the response as submitted to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills was attached as Appendix 2 to the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Council's submission in response to the Assisted Area Map 2014/2020 Stage 1 Consultation Paper, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the Report; and
- (ii) to homologate the decision taken by the Chief Executive to submit this response by the due date of 30 September 2013.

7. PROVISION OF TOURISM INFORMATION IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 February 2012, there was submitted [Report No 617/13](#) by the Chief Executive providing a summary of proposals for the delivery of tourism information in Angus through VisitScotland Information Centres.

The Report indicated that Angus Council had a Minute of Agreement with Visit Scotland which covered marketing activity and the operation of VisitScotland Information Centres (VICs) in Arbroath and Pictavia at Brechin up to March 2014. The Minute of Agreement was due for renewal in April 2014 and VisitScotland had intimated that because of the high running costs of the Brechin VIC and the low footfall, the current Agreement was unsustainable. However, VisitScotland had agreed to maintain the VIC in Brechin until October 2014 to allow time for a full options review to be undertaken. As part of this process, VisitScotland had also agreed to work in partnership with the Council to minimise the impact of withdrawing from Brechin.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the likely impact on VisitScotland withdrawing from the Visitor Information Centre and Pictavia Visitor Centre; and
- (ii) to note that, upon completion of a full investigation into options for the future of the Pictavia Visitor Centre in terms of alternative ways of running the attraction and/or alternative uses for the facility, a further Report with recommendations would be submitted for consideration.

8. CONTRACTS AWARDED AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS EXEMPTIONS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS – 1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 May 2013, there was submitted [Report No 618/13](#) by the Strategic Director – Communities advising members of the contracts awarded and the Financial Regulations exemptions granted by Heads of Service under delegated powers for the period from 1 April to 30 September 2013.

Having heard from a number of members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) that more detailed information in relation to the contract for the Kirriemuir Recycling Centre resurfacing be provided to local members.

9. IMPROVEMENT/ADAPTATION GRANT APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 August 2013, there was submitted [Report No 619/13](#) by the Strategic Director – Communities listing grant applications in respect of improvements and adaptations which had been approved under delegated authority for the period 1 July to 30 September 2013, as well as presenting the cumulative position for the year to date and a projected year-end out-turn.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the position in respect of grant approvals and variations for the period 1 July to 30 September 2013; and

- (ii) to note the overall financial position of the Improvement Grants process to 30 September 2013 and the full year projected out-turn.

10. VARIATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS

There was submitted [Report No 621/13](#) by the Strategic Director – Communities describing proposed amendments to current waiting restrictions to take account of changing circumstances at Clifftown, Arbroath; Anderson Street, Carnoustie; Auldbar Road, The Square/West Hemming Street, Letham; and Beechwood Place, Kirriemuir.

Having heard from Councillor Fairweather in relation to the proposals at Clifftown, Arbroath, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to defer the proposals in relation to Clifftown, Arbroath pending a site visit with local elected members and the relevant officers and that a Report be submitted to the appropriate Committee on the outcome of that meeting; and
- (ii) to approve the promotion of Traffic Regulation Variation Orders to effect changes to traffic management and waiting restrictions in Carnoustie, Letham and Kirriemuir.

11. ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 August 2013, there was submitted [Report No 622/13](#) by the Strategic Director – Communities highlighting the accident cluster sites identified from the most recent three year period, 2010- 2012 and the remedial measures proposed to be undertaken in the next financial year, 2014-2015.

The Report indicated that it was anticipated that the continuing programme of works at accident cluster sites, including reducing the site assessment process from three to two injury accidents would assist in reducing the number of injury accidents and help towards achieving the challenging Scottish targets to 2020. Future road safety schemes at identified accident cluster sites would continue to be prioritised based on the severity of the accidents. Roads, or sections of roads, would also continue to be assessed to identify locations with a high accident rate, although not necessarily an accident cluster site, for consideration on road safety works.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the accident cluster site locations identified from the 2010-2012 accident data; and
- (ii) to approve the proposed remedial works recommended to be undertaken during financial year 2014-2015.

12. ARBROATH HARBOUR INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS – BOAT HOIST AND LANDING SLAB

With reference to Article 3(b) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 September 2013, there was submitted [Report No 623/13](#) by the Strategic Director – Communities updating members on the successful bid from the European Fisheries Fund 2013/2014 for the provision of a boat hoist and landing slab at Arbroath Harbour and seeking approval of the funding proposals.

The Report indicated that, following a successful bid for funding, the Council would receive an estimated £85,000 towards the estimated £170,000 total costs. Match funding towards these projects of the remaining £85,000 was required which could be accommodated within existing Roads budgets in 2013/2014.

Having heard Councillor Spink welcome the proposals, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the successful bid to the European Fisheries Fund 2013 for the provision of a boat hoist and landing slab at Arbroath Harbour;
- (ii) to approve the acceptance of the funding bids for the landing slab and boat hoist; and

- (iii) to note the financial implications as set out in section 5 and that the Council's contribution could be met from existing allocations as detailed in the Report, albeit the preferred option was subject to the necessary budget virement being approved by the Corporate Services Committee.