

AGENDA ITEM NO 18

REPORT NO 222/16

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE 24 MAY 2016

TAYSIDE AND FIFE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND TRADING STANDARDS RESOURCE SHARING PARTNERSHIP

REPORT BY HEAD OF REGULATORY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

To inform members of shared services discussions which have taken place with neighbouring authorities in relation to Environmental Health and Trading Standards, and to seek approval to sign the four-council Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which details the scope and mechanism for formally sharing resources within the Environmental Health and Trading Standards services.

1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes the contents of this report and the proposed resource sharing potential; and
- (ii) remits the Head of Regulatory and Protective Services to sign the MoU on behalf of Angus Council and commence the shared services arrangements as required.

2.0 ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are safe, secure and vibrant
- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner
- Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed
- Our carbon footprint is reduced

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Reference is made to the contents of the Audit Scotland (on behalf of the Accounts Commission) Report regarding the operation of Trading Standards and Food Safety Services across Scotland. This along with the earlier Christie Commission Report advises that with reduced public spending, councils will be required to work together to develop partnerships and closer working relationships in order to maximise the efficiencies and effectiveness of their services.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Officers from Angus Council have since been working with their colleagues in Dundee, Perth & Kinross and Fife to identify areas of service that would benefit from sharing resources including staff expertise and equipment. Although the Audit Scotland Report focused mainly on Trading Standards and Food Safety areas of service, the four council working group has examined a wider remit including Public Health and Environmental Protection. A number of areas of service which are currently informally shared along with additional areas of specialist services have been identified and have been documented into a formal Minute of Understanding (MoU) shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The MoU details the procedure and mechanism for formally sharing and lending of equipment and expertise and this allows where possible such shared services to be carried out on a balanced cost neutral basis. The MoU also provides an itinerary of the equipment and specialised staff held by each of the four councils for reference.
- 4.3 Administration and monitoring of the performance of the arrangements detailed within the MoU will be carried out by a representative of each council (the Resource Sharing Group – RSG). The RSG is also actively seeking discussions with further local authorities in order to identify where further resource sharing potential exists.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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