

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**27 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**CHARRETTE PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**REPORT BY THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides an update on implementing the charrette roll out programme for 2015/16 agreed in September 2015. It also provides details in implementing the programme in 2016/17.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the progress made in implementing the Council's agreed charrette programme
- (ii) Notes the outputs from the charrettes held in Forfar, Arbroath and Montrose
- (iii) Endorses the frameworks for action identified in each of the reports

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN**

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

**3. BACKGROUND**

Reference is made to Report no 375/15 and Report No 42/16.

This report updates progress in implementing the charrette roll-out programme for 2015/16 It also describes progress with the 2016/17 programme.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires the production of a Local Outcome Improvement Plan to replace the current Single Outcome Agreement. It also requires the production of at least one locality plan.

The Angus Community Planning Partnership has committed to the production of a Locality Plan for each of its four localities. These Locality Plans will provide a vehicle through which the Council can collaborate with communities and partners to ensure that work undertaken respects the uniqueness of communities and the needs and aspirations of the people that live and work there. Locality Leadership Groups comprising Senior Council Officials have been created to lead the development and subsequent implementation of these Locality Plans.

Robust and holistic Locality Plans will be founded in a sound understanding of communities and what matters to them, which is being developed through a range of community and partner engagement activity, supported by analysis of the statistical evidence base.

The charrette programme is one of the ways in which the Council is engaging with local communities and partner agencies to identify challenges and opportunities relating to the physical, social and economic development of Angus Communities.

During the 2015/16 financial year three town centre charrettes were held in:

Forfar – November 2015 - January 2016

Arbroath – February 2016

Montrose – March 2016

The remit for each of these charrettes was to:

- Review town centre boundaries through dialogue with people who live and work in the area
- Develop shared long-term vision and strategy for town centres, which is set within the wider context of the towns and their hinterlands. Each vision and strategy should build on the agreed assets and strengths of the existing town centres and the challenges and opportunities which they face
- Build commitment to delivering the changes required to achieve the vision on the part of all of the people, organisations and agencies that have a stake in the future of the town centres involved.
- Create a clear, agreed, set of objectives for the development of each town centre over the next ten years and link this to a proposed programme for action
- Inform and influence future strategic planning and decision making including the content of strategic planning documents such as The Locality Outcome Improvement Plan for Angus, related Locality Plans, Angus Community Planning Partners' agency plans, Angus Local Development Plan and strategic housing plans.

Each of the charrettes took place over a number of days during which members of the community, local business people, Council staff and representatives from public and community agencies were invited to engage in a series of workshop activities designed to identify issues, opportunities and solutions.

The reports from each charrette includes a vision for each of the town centres considered and a set of action proposals for achieving progress towards the attainment of that vision. The visions and related actions embrace social, spatial and economic aspirations and activities. These are summarised in **Appendix A** of this report. Copies of the reports can be found at:

- Forfar - **Appendix B**
- Arbroath - **Appendix C**
- Montrose - **Appendix D**

(Copies of the reports will be placed in the members' lounge)

The charrette outputs are already beginning to support and enable progress and development in a number of ways: They are:

- directly informing the development of Locality Plans in all four locality areas. Early drafts of these Plans will be available for consultation later in the calendar year.
- providing an evidence base to support funding applications
- acting as a catalyst for some joint activity involving public bodies and community organisations

Much of this activity is at an early stage, but there are positive signs that the charrette outputs are influencing thinking and direction and offering a means through which some otherwise separate developments can better be connected.

Report No 42/16 approved the carry-forward of £110,000 to support the delivery of charrettes in the 2016/17 financial year. This was to meet the costs of delivering charrettes in Monifieth, Kirriemuir and a rural area in Angus.

The Monifieth charrette took place in June 2016. The draft vision and key areas for action are still the subject of discussion with consultants.

The Kirriemuir charrette is scheduled to take place in September 2016 and early engagement work with Council officers, community organisations and members of the public has already taken place.

The final charrette in the programme will take place in south west Angus during the first quarter of 2017 and is likely to focus on a Community Council area. The detail of this has yet to be finalised

## **5. PROPOSALS**

Each of the Charrette Reports contains specific short, medium and long-term proposals for action. The challenge now presented is for Council staff, community members and partner agencies to work together to progress proposals. In some cases this will involve implementation in the near future. However, some proposals require more detailed exploration and or longer term planning before they can be taken forward.

The Communities Team, with the active support of Locality leadership Groups, will bring stakeholders back together as appropriate to move actions forward. An early priority here will be ensuring that the creation of Locality Plans over the coming months takes full account of charrette outputs, in particular the visions articulated for the town centres of Forfar, Arbroath and Montrose.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report. Implementation of the work programmes and related actions contained in the three charrette reports may require financial support from the Council, but this will be the subject of further reports or dealt with through the Council's priority based budget setting process.

**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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List of Appendices:

Appendix A	Summary of Charrette Outputs
Appendix B	Future Forfar, final report
Appendix C	Arbroath Town Centre Charrette, final report
Appendix D	Montrose Town Centre Charrette, final report

## Appendix A: Summary of Charrette Outputs

### Forfar Town Centre Charrette

#### Vision

Forfar Town Centre needs more buzz about it, primarily by encouraging local people to stay loyal to their town: to visit the town centre more often, to stay there longer for work, shopping, meeting and eating. This should be achieved by focusing on developing:

- **A Distinctive Character** by enhancing Forfar's underlying unique features such as buildings, shop-fronts and streetscapes
- **A Forfar for All Generations** by
- creating affordable spaces for all age groups
- **Consolidating the Centre** by making The Cross and town centre a focus for the local community
- **Better Communication and Coordination** between all local partners on what is happening in Forfar and greater promotion to the wider world

#### Priorities for Action

Theme	Focus	Strands of Activity
A Distinctive Character	The Cross and Surroundings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-led events</li> <li>• Temporary road closure to trial activity</li> <li>• Make better use of buildings and assets</li> <li>• Improve the quality of streetscape and built environment</li> </ul>
	Classy Streets and Shop Fronts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot shop front programmes – pop-up shops and art installations to generate interest and activity</li> <li>• Improve the quality of the streetscape and shop fronts, restoring character</li> </ul>
	East High Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate East High Street as an entry point to the town centre</li> <li>• Green pockets in East High Street</li> <li>• Create small civic spaces</li> <li>• Improve bus stops</li> <li>• Reconfigure the East High Street roadway</li> </ul>
	Getting About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active travel audit and strategy</li> <li>• Better walking links between housing areas and town centres</li> <li>• Map community and heritage assets</li> <li>• Beat the Street Initiatives</li> <li>• Upgrade signage</li> <li>• Create interpretive signage</li> <li>• Direct walking routes around the town centre</li> </ul>
	Green Pockets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on community growing spaces initiatives</li> <li>• Create a network of green pockets</li> </ul>
Forfar for All Generations	Sustain what you have	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate existing</li> </ul>

		community activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Strengthen networking and communication between groups and agencies</li> </ul>
	Free indoor youth space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Pilot initiatives in available spaces</li> <li>•Feasibility study</li> </ul>
	Town centre living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Develop incentives for using upper floors for housing</li> <li>•Support developers to access funding for developing new homes</li> <li>•Establish community energy coop</li> <li>•Feasibility on diversification</li> </ul>
Consolidate the Centre	Central community hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Identify community champions</li> <li>•Steering group for community hub</li> <li>•Sustainable business plan</li> </ul>
	Events programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Annual events programme</li> </ul>
	Town centre first	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Policy focud</li> <li>•Influencing future LDP</li> </ul>
Communication	Local sharing and coordination	Picture of existing notice boards and social media
	What's on Forfar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Online events calendar</li> </ul>
	Tapping in to tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Create a set of messages that convey how the town sees itself and wants to be seen by others</li> <li>•Develop branding for the town</li> </ul>

## Arbroath Town Centre Charrette

### Vision

#### The Five As Vision for Arbroath

##### **Ambitious** Arbroath

- change of mind set – positivity
- promote assets (inward and outward)

##### **Active** Arbroath

- convivial High Street / Town Centre
- health + wellbeing

##### **Accessible** Arbroath

- well connected – destinations
- welcoming / inclusive for all

##### **Authentic** Arbroath

- doesn't have to fake it'
- provenance

##### **Attractive** Arbroath

- environment, quality, lifestyle

#### **Priorities for Action**

The report identifies five programmes for action, provides a supporting rationale and proposes next steps. It also identifies a range of potential funding sources to be explored and emphasises the importance of collective action for change, playing to the strengths of third, public and private sector partners

Programme	Areas for Action
Connections and Destinations	<p><b>Short Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage review and updating.</li> <li>• Plug Core Path network.</li> <li>• Consider Development Plan allocations along the key 'missing link' on Catherine Street.</li> <li>• Use this to develop a business case for streetscape.</li> <li>• 'Health Check' – cycle prohibitions / one way system. /</li> <li>• Accessibility Audit.</li> <li>• Parking decriminalisation.</li> <li>• Coach parking location(s).</li> <li>• A92 trial.</li> <li>• Improve railway underpass Spink St / Hume St.</li> </ul> <p><b>Medium Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streetscape works.</li> <li>• Creation of the key 'Missing Link'.</li> <li>• Bus station drop off.</li> <li>• Brothock Bridge town entry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Long Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A92 reimagined</li> </ul>
Place Mending	<p>The report considered a number of physical sites and opportunities for improvement and makes proposals for change. The sites considered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guthrie Hill/Abbey Quarter</li> <li>• Guthrie Port</li> <li>• High Street/Abbey Path</li> <li>• Court House</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applegate</li> <li>• Elgin Place</li> <li>• Brothock Valley</li> <li>• Dens Road/Wardmill Road</li> <li>• Seaforth</li> <li>• Helen Street</li> </ul>
Developing the Visitor Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint &amp; Coordinated Development &amp; Promotion: Attractions &amp; Arts/Culture &amp; Creative Industries Offer: Cultural Destination Initiative</li> <li>• Invest in Skills &amp; WorldHost™ Programme: Businesses in Retail, Hospitality, Leisure &amp; Transport</li> <li>• Arbroath: Accessible Tourism Destination</li> <li>• Arbroath Festivals &amp; Events: Strategic Development &amp; Coordination</li> <li>• Improving Choice of Visitor Accommodation &amp; High Value Visitor Packages: International Markets</li> <li>• Investing Collectively: Developing &amp; Delivering Arbroath Business Improvement District</li> </ul>
Sustainable Economic Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dundee &amp; Angus College: Creative Workspace &amp; Informal Uses</li> <li>• Young Enterprise Incubator: Housed In Existing Vacant Space</li> <li>• Proactive Planning Initiative</li> </ul>
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusive &amp; Accessible Arbroath: Tackle 'doorstepitis': not aware of/had access to Arbroath's assets.</li> <li>• Health &amp; Wellbeing: Key Component Of Economic Growth</li> <li>• Arts &amp; Heritage: Social Enterprises &amp; Third Sector Opportunities</li> <li>• Over 50's: RVS Local Peoples Programme</li> </ul>

**Montrose Town Centre Charrette  
Vision for 2026**

Montrose is a **friendly, inclusive and enterprising** place. Its well maintained and **attractive town centre** is a gathering place and shared asset for all Montrosians and visitors.

Montrose is an **exemplar Scottish Royal Burgh** that has adapted to become a welcoming, vibrant and convivial contemporary town. It has a strong and memorable identity and a high quality of life.

Located between the Basin and the Beach it is a **remarkable place renowned for its built and natural heritage**.

Montrose retains a reputation for encouraging **active living** and participation in sports. It is a 'Cycling Town'. Its diverse cultural life, access to nature and recreation contributes to **good health & wellbeing**.

It is a '**can do**' town with an engaged resident and business community working to continue to improve the town and ensure all Montrosians benefit from its many assets, including a **thriving visitor economy** and a **vibrant, diversified Port** with industry, pharmaceuticals & manufacturing.

**Priorities for Action**

The report identifies five programmes for action, provides a supporting rationale and proposes next steps. It also identifies a range of potential funding sources to be explored and emphasises the importance of collective action for change, playing to the strengths of third, public and private sector partners

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Areas for Action</b>
Place-mending	<p>The report identifies a number of potential areas for improvement and makes proposals in relation to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Street – Public Realm Works</li> <li>• Activate Vacant Space e.g. Upper Floors</li> <li>• Maintain/</li> <li>• Conserve Historic Buildings in Town Centre</li> <li>• Retrofit Out of Character Buildings</li> <li>• Restore Closes</li> <li>• Rail Station Enhancements</li> <li>• Crossing points on A92</li> <li>• Basin Boardwalk</li> <li>• Extended Public Realm Works to Wharf</li> <li>• Regeneration Strategy for Port/ Link to Port</li> <li>• Mid Links Landscape</li> <li>• Landscape to the Links</li> </ul>
Promoting Montrose – Visitor Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural &amp; built heritage &amp; creatives offer: infrastructure &amp; facilities</li> <li>• Effectively marketed destination: one coordinated web portal</li> <li>• Montrose 'brand' launched</li> <li>• Events &amp; festivals: existing &amp; new experiences</li> <li>• High value visitor packages: international markets: natural/built heritage, arts tasters, restaurants, accommodation, local food/drink</li> <li>• WorldHost</li> <li>• BID or DMO</li> </ul>
Celebrating health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making the most of community 'social capital' - resources/skills/expertise: groups working together &amp; inequalities</li> <li>• Arts &amp; continued sports development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cinema &amp; arts venue</li> <li>- pathways &amp; community sports hub: skills, confidence, enterprise</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cycling town: visitors/residents</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new routes &amp; facilities</li> <li>- business/social enterprise opportunities &amp; events</li> <li>• Improved walking/cycling network</li> </ul>
Promoting Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply chain &amp; sub-contractors: GSK &amp; Port</li> <li>• Strong new businesses: entrepreneurs &amp; civic economy</li> <li>• &amp; social enterprises</li> <li>• Enterprise centre: incubator: enthuse, motivate, educate /support</li> <li>• Skills investment: Individual Learning</li> <li>• Accounts/Flexible Training Opportunities</li> </ul>
Encouraging More Town Centre Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Area: sponsored maintenance blitz</li> <li>• High Street: affordable housing: sale &amp; rent</li> <li>• Older + young peoples accommodation</li> <li>• Complement LDP: town centre first'</li> <li>• 'Survive &amp; Thrive': sale price subsidy</li> <li>• Proactive planning: parking</li> <li>• Local builders: small/micro sites</li> <li>• Self-build &amp; custom build</li> </ul>