

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE 29 SEPTEMBER 2015

CHARRETTE PROGRAMME UPDATE

REPORT BY THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update on progress in implementing actions arising from the Brechin and Carnoustie charrettes. It also details plans for the roll out of charrettes in the current financial year.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes progress made in relation to the Brechin and Carnoustie charrettes;
- (ii) Notes the progress made in relation to procurement for the delivery of charrettes in Forfar, Arbroath and Montrose;
- (iii) Approves the amended programme for the delivery of charrettes; and
- (iv) Requests a further progress report on the charrette programme and related action in summer 2016.

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

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

3. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to Report no 242/15 – Brechin and Carnoustie Charrettes.

Report no 242/15 summarised the key outcomes from the Brechin and Carnoustie charrettes and sought approval for the framework of actions contained within the two charrette reports. It also approved the roll out of charrettes for 2015/16 to Arbroath, Montrose and Forfar and 2016/17 to Monifieth, Kirriemuir and a rural area.

This report updates progress in implementing charrette findings in Brechin and Carnoustie and provides further detail on the roll out programme for 2015/16.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Each Angus locality is unique and for the first time we are beginning to see this emerge as a result of engagement with communities and partners through charrettes and locality planning events. The uniqueness of communities is now posing a significant challenge to Council services, partners and communities as they seek to honour the outcomes from community and partner engagement activity and become more responsive to the needs expressed. Becoming more responsive requires new ways of thinking and acting and adjusting to this new context will be a challenge to services, partners and communities moving forward. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 will require the production of a new Local Outcome Improvement Plan to replace the Single Outcome Agreement and responsive locality plans for each of the four Angus localities. Locality Plans will offer a vehicle through which we can work with communities and partners to ensure that our work to develop Angus communities respects the needs and aspirations of the people that live and work there. They will help us to plan more holistically with communities, bringing together social, economic and physical planning in a way that has proved problematic in the past. The work we are doing

now in holding locality planning events and undertaking charrettes will inform these new locality plans.

- 4.2 In Brechin the charrette and the Brechin/Montrose Locality Community Planning event held on 18 June 2015 are helping to build up a rich picture of priorities for Brechin from a community, Council and partnership perspective.

The town centre charrette in Brechin has coincided with a time of significant physical change in the City with the construction of the new community campus, flood prevention works, new housing and economic development activity. Community spirit in the City is high and the charrette achieved significant levels of community and business participation which are also evident in policy development and event planning.

Over the summer months exploratory work has been undertaken relating to the implementation of actions emerging from the charrette and we are now in a position to comment on the feasibility of building on these actions as a basis for responding to community aspirations and specifically the vision for Brechin agreed at the charrette. [Appendix 1](#) provides an update on short, medium and long term goals and actions.

- 4.3 In Carnoustie, the Big Carnoustie Conversation (charrette) was successful in engaging significant numbers of community members in a dialogue about the future of the town. The event helped all participating partners to recognise that they would need to work together to deliver on the aspirations set out in the charrette report.

Since the charrette Council services, partners and community organisations have been giving consideration to actions which can be taken together to move forward and bring about improvement. [Appendix 2](#) provides an update on short, medium and long-term goals and actions.

A Locality Community Planning event for the Carnoustie, Monifieth and Sidlaw areas was held on Friday 25 September 2015. This event was informed by the outcomes from the Big Carnoustie Conversation which contributed to the shaping of priorities for the locality.

- 4.4 Since broad approval was given for the roll-out of the charrette programme, work has been progressing to procure the services of consultants to support the delivery of the programme.

The approach taken was as set out in Report no. 243/15 which approved the establishment of a Supply Framework Agreement. Consultants to deliver specific charrettes would then be secured through a mini competition between those on the Framework. Once established this will help to speed up future procurement.

An invitation to Tender for the Supply Framework Agreement and the Forfar charrette was issued in July 2016 and attracted a good level of interest from suitably qualified and experienced consultants. Assuming that there are no unanticipated delays, the Supply Framework Agreement will be fully in place by 30 September 2015 and Consultants will have been appointed to deliver a charrette in Forfar before the end of the calendar year.

As a consequence of the procurement arrangements undertaken, there is now a need to agree an amended programme for the delivery of charrettes in the current financial year:

Forfar	- November/December 2015
Arbroath	- February 2016
Montrose	- March 2016

The development of specifications for these three charrettes is already underway and a plan is in place which will ensure delivery within the proposed timeframe.

Proposals for the further roll out of the charrette programme in 2016/17 are in place, subject to the availability of resources. They are:

Monifieth	- summer 2016
Kirriemuir	- autumn 2016
Rural Angus	- early 2017. During the current year consideration will be given to adapting the engagement process embedded in charrettes to more rural areas. Options available include focusing on larger rural settlements or focusing on a wider geographic area that includes a number of smaller settlements.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The Framework for Action approved in Report no 242/15 tasked the Communities Team with a coordinating role in relation to driving forward actions. The team will continue to work with council services, partners and the community to ensure that the short, medium and long term actions outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 of this report move forward and that new actions are added as appropriate. To assist with this, they will convene meetings of stakeholders as relevant. They will also ensure that the development of Locality Plans, as required by the Community Empowerment Act take full account of the outputs from charrettes.
- 5.2 The charrettes were stakeholder events in which the residents of Brechin and Carnoustie invested their time to contribute to the development of long term visions and specific proposals for their respective towns. To maintain their engagement and provide a degree of transparency and accountability, it is proposed that follow-up engagement events are held in each community early in 2016. In addition, it is proposed that communication strategies are developed and implemented that provide members of the public and partner agencies with updates on a regular basis.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report. Implementation of the action plans arising from the Brechin and Montrose charrettes may require some specific financial support from the Council, but this will be the subject of separate reports or dealt with through the Council's priority based budget setting process. All financial and in-kind support from Angus Council is met from existing budget resources. No funding is currently in place for extending the charrette programme beyond 2015/16, so this will need to be considered as part of the budget setting process for 2016/17

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance, Head of Property and Technical Services and Head of Legal and Democratic Services have been consulted in the preparation of 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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List of Appendices: Appendix 1 Brechin Charrette: Progress and Commitments
 Appendix 2 Carnoustie Charrette: Progress and Commitments