

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar, on Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors ALEX KING, BILL DUFF, JULIE BELL, BRIAN BOYD, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN, LYNNE DEVINE, BEN LAWRIE, MARK McDONALD, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, MARK SALMOND and BRENDA DURNO.

Councillor KING, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ian McLaren and Beth Whiteside with Councillors Craig Fotheringham and Brenda Durno substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of the meeting of this Committee of 23 January 2018 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Special Meeting

The minute of the Special Meeting of this Committee of 20 February 2018 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. RECEPTION OF A DEPUTATION

The Convener intimated that a request for a deputation had been received from Ms Fiona Gray in relation to the petition to demand that Angus Council install Wi-Fi in Monikie Primary School as a matter of utmost urgency, Item 5, Report No 82/18 refers.

The Committee agreed to receive the deputation following which Ms Gray sought clarification in terms of the installation process and why the process had taken so long to implement given that the Digital Strategy had been in place since June 2017; also highlighted there had been changes to the connectivity to the Council main network which the parents had not been made aware of and subsequently due to lack of clarity in a number of areas, requested that updates be reported directly to the parents.

There being no questions, Ms Gray withdrew to the public benches.

5. PETITION – TO DEMAND THAT ANGUS COUNCIL INSTALL WI-FI IN MONIKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL AS A MATTER OF UTMOST URGENCY

There was submitted Report No 82/18 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, advising members of a petition with 107 valid signatures which had been received in connection with a request to install Wi-Fi and internet at Monikie Primary School.

The Report indicated that the signatories had intimated that the children at Monikie Primary School, through no fault of their own, were being put at an educational disadvantage in comparison with all but a handful of the other 63 schools in Angus, due to the lack of Wi-Fi in the school. The petition also stated that “in this digital age, it was unacceptable that the children are unable to access relevant and additional resources, or make use of GLOW, Scotland’s digital environment for learning, throughout the school”.

The petition had been received by the Chief Executive on 12 January 2018 and in accordance with Standing Orders it was presented to this Committee for its further consideration.

The Report also provided that connectivity was part of a wider programme to enable the rollout of digital connectivity throughout Angus. It was intended that Monikie Primary School would be connected to the Council main network via the Panmure Monument and Carnoustie High School. Progress on implementation included a number of works which were outlined in Section 3 of the Report.

The Strategic Director – People provided an update and indicated that due to the challenges faced there had been unforeseen delays in the project. He apologised for the delay and confirmed that progress was now being made. He highlighted there had been no issues raised by Angus Council and Historic Scotland. The planning application had been lodged and that a decision would be made no later than the end of March 2018.

He indicated that should the planning decision be confirmed earlier than anticipated, subject to the legal agreement being concluded with the landowner of the Panmure Monument, the project maybe progressed sooner however confirmed that the project was scheduled to be completed this school session.

The Committee agreed, in terms of Standing Order 14, to determine that appropriate action had already been taken or was planned and that no further action was necessary.

6. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2017.

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 November 2017, there was submitted Report No 83/18 by Gordon Pryde, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue, containing performance information relating to the third quarter (October to December) of 2017/18 on the performance and activities in support of the priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Angus 2017 and the wider community planning priorities.

Attached as Appendix 1 to the Report was the detailed breakdown and analysis of all data collected during the reporting period which also included an overview of a range of significant community safety engagement events and partnership working. The Report also provided context to the performance of the Scottish and Fire Rescue Service in the Angus area against indicators and targets.

Gordon Pryde provided an overview and highlighted a number of key performance results.

Following discussion and having heard from a number of members, the Committee agreed to note the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as outlined in the Quarterly Monitoring Report for the period 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017.

7. ANGUS LOCAL POLICING AREA PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2017 TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 November 2017, there was submitted Report No 84/18 by the Chief Superintendent Graeme Murdoch, which updated the Committee on the performance results for the period 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017.

Attached as Appendix A to the Report were the performance indicators that had been subdivided into the following priorities within the Report which were the Local Policing Priorities as identified in the 3 year Local Policing Plan:-

- Putting victims at the heart of what we do
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Maintaining public safety

Also attached as an Appendix to the Report was the performance summary report advising that 7,359 calls had been received during the period 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017.

Chief Inspector David McIntosh highlighted a number of key areas and provided a detailed overview of the Report. He also provided an update in relation to the current review of police office accommodation in Monifieth and Carnoustie.

Following discussion, where a number of questions were answered by Chief Inspector McIntosh, the Committee agreed to note the content of the Report.

At this point, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland representatives left the meeting.

8. INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY UPDATE

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 January 2018, there was submitted Report No 85/18 by the Acting Service Manager – Governance and Consultancy, providing the Audit Manager's update of the main findings of the Internal Audit Report issued since the date of the last meeting.

Four Internal Audit Reports had been issued since the last meeting, these being:-

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Readiness
- Fixed Asset Register
- Audit Scotland Best Value Report – Internal Audit Follow-up
- Interreg (European Funding)

The Report presented the progress of internal audit activity within the Council up to the end of January 2018 and provided an update on progress of the 2017/18 Internal Audit Plan and the implementation internal audit recommendations.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the update and progress with the 2017/18 Internal Audit Plan; and
- (ii) to note the management's progress in implementing Internal Audit recommendations.

9. SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF-ASSESSMENT AND ANNUAL REPORT

There was submitted Report 86/18 by the Acting Service Manager – Governance and Consultancy, outlining proposals to prepare an Annual Report to Committee on the work undertaken by this Committee during 2017/18.

The Report indicated that best practice guidance for audit committees was generally considered to be the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA'S) 2013 "Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police" (referred to as "the guidance"). The guidance recommended that all audit committees should "report regularly on their work, and at least annually report an assessment of their performance".

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the proposal to undertake a self-assessment and to prepare an Annual Report to Council for the year to 31 March 2018; and
- (ii) to note that detailed information would be available for discussion and review at the meeting of this Committee on 24 April 2018.

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2018/19

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 23 March 2017 there was submitted Report 87/18 by the Head of Corporate Finance seeking members to review and scrutinise the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for Angus Council for 2018/19.

The Report indicated that the purpose of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement was to develop borrowing, investment and debt rescheduling strategies for the forthcoming financial year based on prospects for interest rates. The strategies adopted took account of

the current treasury position and treasury limits in force that would limit treasury risk and treasury activities of the Council.

The 2018/19 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy set out the expected treasury management activities for Angus Council for the forthcoming financial year.

Having heard from the Head of Corporate Finance, the Committee agreed to note the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19, attached as Appendix A to the Report.

11. EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 March 2017, there was submitted Report No 88/18 by the Head of Corporate Finance, presenting the External Auditors Annual Audit Plan for 2017/18.

The Report indicated that the Annual Audit Plan contained an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit and was carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), the Code of Audit Practice and any other relevant guidance.

The plan identified the audit work required to provide an opinion on the financial statements and related matters and to meet the wider scope requirement of Public Sector Audit. The wider scope of Public Audit contributed to conclusions on the appropriateness, effectiveness and impact of corporate governance, performance management arrangements and financial sustainability.

The 2017/18 key audit risks, which required specific audit testing were outlined in Exhibit 1 of the Appendix to the Report.

Rachel Brown, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland provided an overview and highlighted the various aspects of the Report.

The Committee agreed to note the content of the External Audit Annual Audit Plan.