

ANGUS COUNCIL

5 NOVEMBER 2020

ARRANGEMENTS IN RELATION TO INFORMATION REPORTS: UPDATE

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This Report proposes that the interim arrangements with regard to Information Reports cease and the previous practice of Information Reports being submitted to committees be re-established.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the interim arrangements with regard to Information Reports cease and the previous practice of Information Reports being submitted to committees be re-established.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

2.1 This Report contributes to the achievement of our priority that the council is efficient and effective as detailed in our Council Plan for 2017 – 2022.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the special meeting of Angus Council on 3 April 2020 a range of interim arrangements were approved in relation to decision making, including the establishment of a Special Arrangements Committee and a Special Education Committee. Only time critical or necessary business were to be considered at these meetings.

At the meeting of the Special Arrangements Committee on 28 April 2020 it was agreed that in relation to Information Reports, officers as far as is operationally possible in light of impact of the COVID 19 epidemic would prepare the same information as would normally be included in information reports on a four weekly basis using a template covering report. These reports would be posted on the Document Centre to allow elected members to access the reports. The reports would be published on the Council's website under the heading of "Information Reports" the day after. Information Reports that were specific to the educational functions of the authority would be emailed to the 3 religious representatives on the Special Education Committee at the same time as they were posted on the Document Centre.

It was agreed that these arrangements would continue when meetings resumed their normal frequency so as the Council could manage the committee business and reduce the number of reports coming before members as part of the agenda for Council or Committee, but that officers would keep the situation under review.

At the meeting of the Special Arrangements Committee on 23 June 2020 it was agreed that meetings of all service committees would resume in August 2020 in accordance with the previously agreed timetable of meetings, with the consequential ceasing of meetings of the Special Arrangements Committee and the Special Education Committee.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 As there has been a full cycle of committee meetings officers have taken the opportunity to review the business held at these meetings and assess if there is capacity for Information Reports being considered at these meetings.

It has been concluded that there has not been an increase in the business that is considered at service committees and accordingly it is now considered appropriate that the previous practice of submitting Information Reports to committees be re-established.

If members are agreeable to this proposal then it will take effect immediately.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from implementing the proposals contained in this report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the public have had access to the information on the Council's website as was current practice.

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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