

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE** held remotely on Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 2.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors ALEX KING, BILL DUFF, JULIE BELL, BRIAN BOYD, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN BEM, LYNNE DEVINE, DEREK WANN, MARK MCDONALD, IAN McLAREN, BOB MYLES, MARK SALMOND and BETH WHITESIDE.

Councillor KING, Convener, in the Chair.

## 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Ben Lawrie with Councillor Derek Wann substituting.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bell declared a non-financial interest in Item 7 (Report 58/21) as she was a member on the Angus Community Justice Partnership and Items 8 and 9 (Reports 59/21 and 60/21) as an elected/voting member of the Integration Joint Board. She indicated that she had a general exclusion in terms of Item 7 and a specific exclusion in terms of Items 8 and 9 and would participate in any discussions and voting on these items.

Councillors Devine, Duff and Wann each declared a non-financial interest in Item 6 (Report 57/21) in that they were a Council appointed Board member of Angusalive. They indicated that they had a general exclusion and would participate in any discussion and voting on this item.

## 3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 January 2021 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

## 4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE: QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2020, there was submitted Report No 55/21 by Gordon Pryde, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, containing performance information relating to quarter three (1 October to 31 December) of 2020 on the performance and activities in support of the priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Angus 2020 and the wider community planning priorities.

Attached as an Appendix 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 community safety engagement events and partnership working. The Report also provided context to the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Angus area against indicators and targets.

At this stage in the meeting, Gordon Pryde, Local Senior Officer indicated that he was taking up a new position within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and that he would be replaced by Area Commander Stephen Wood.

He thereafter introduced the performance summary and Scott Gibson, Group Commander summarised the 2020/21 quarter three activities and provided a detailed overview of some of the performance highlights of the twelve headline indicators and targets, highlighting accidental dwelling fires non-fatal fire casualties, non-domestic building fires, road traffic collision casualties, unwanted fire alarm signals, and deliberate primary and secondary fires. Targeted youth initiatives, youth engagement work and the fire setters initiative were ongoing and online education packages had been provided to the education service.

The Group Commander also highlighted that during quarter 3, the Fire Service continued to train in all aspects of their role to ensure that operationally they were prepared for what was required during these challenging times. He also highlighted the ongoing partnership working, further details of which were provided in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the Report.

Councillors Braes, Boyd, Bell, Duff and Devine sought further information in relation to unwanted fire alarm signals, Cameron House fire, primary and secondary fire in rural areas and issues relating to wild camping, flooding and Virtual Reality (VR) training and heard from both the Group Commander and Local Senior Officer in response to the matters raised.

Councillors Devine and Boyd also commended the work of the local fire stations who rallied round to help their communities and those most affected during these unprecedented times.

The Group Commander was thanked for his service contribution and wished well for the future.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as outlined in the quarterly monitoring Report for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020; and
- (ii) that following the Cameron House fire in 2017 and the recently published Report and findings, to request the Local Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue to bring back a report to a future meeting of this Committee to provide assurances regarding the Angus position.

## **5. POLICE SCOTLAND: ANGUS LOCAL POLICING AREA PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2020**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 December 2020, there was submitted Report No 56/21 by Chief Superintendent Andrew Todd, which updated the Committee on the performance results for the period 1 October to 31 December 2020.

Appendix A to the Report outlined the performance in relation to the identified policing objectives and outcomes which were monitored and reviewed at the monthly Tasking and Delivery meeting. The data provided in the Report was for information purposes to allow members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

The Report made reference to specific crimes mentioned in the local policing plan and also complimented the force priorities and supported reporting through Community Planning Partnership structures.

Chief Superintendent Andrew Todd provided an overview of the Report, highlighting the local policing priorities, hate crimes/incidents breakdown, and also advising members of other additional key activities areas including licensing and complaints against the Police.

Councillors Myles, Devine, Duff, Whiteside and Braes sought further information in relation to scams/fraud, Scottish Partnership against Rural Crime (SPARC) and Brexit, dog thefts, rural crimes, complaints, drink/drug driving and wildlife crime and in response heard from both Chief Superintendent Todd and Chief Inspector Morrison.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

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

## **6. ANGUSALIVE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 June 2020, there was submitted Report No 57/21 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform, presenting ANGUSalive's Annual Report for 2019/20, together with a performance information summary for 2016/17-2019/20.

The Report highlighted some of ANGUSalive's key achievements and developments during 2019/20 and included a financial overview. More detailed financial information was available in ANGUSalive's report and consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2020, which were accessible direct from Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)/ Companies House.

Kirsty Hunter, Chief Executive of ANGUSalive provided a detailed overview of the Report for the year 2019/20, in particular, highlighting the significant impact that the coronavirus had on the charity's ability to operate during the current financial year as a result of the operational restrictions in place. She also highlighted other key areas including the organisation's strategic aims, key benefits and contributions to the community planning priorities, case studies and financial position.

She advised that the sports centre attendance figure for 2019/20 had been omitted from Appendix 2 to the Report, but confirmed that during 2019/20, the sports centre attendance figures was 1,284,966.

She thereafter commended the work of colleagues, volunteers, Board of Directors, and also the support provided by Angus Council and the local community in continuing the contribution to the health and wellbeing of everyone living, working and visiting Angus.

The Chief Executive of Angusalive thereafter answered questions from Councillors McDonald and Wann in relation to the performance information summary, outlined in Appendix 2 to the Report, in particular, the drop in attendance numbers relating to sport centres, museums, galleries and exhibitions held and the increase of data protection breaches for the period 17/18 to 19/20.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the ANGUSalive Annual Report for 2019/20, as attached in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to note the Performance Information Summary for 2016/17-2019/20, included within Appendix 2 to the Report.

## **7. ANGUS COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL ACTIVITY RETURN REPORT**

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 26 November 2019, there was submitted Report No 58/21 by the Service Leader Broad General Education and Primary and Chair of the Angus Community Justice Partnership presenting the Angus Community Justice Partnership Annual Activity Return for 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

The Report highlighted the work undertaken by individual services within the Angus Community Justice Partnership and collectively as a partnership to deliver National, Tayside and Local Justice outcomes to improve the lives of individuals within the Justice system or on the periphery during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Mr Jim Hammond, Chair of the Angus Community Justice Partnership (ACJP), provided an overview of the Report and in response to a question from Councillor Devine, confirmed that future reports would be reviewed to contain a list of acronyms.

Councillor Whiteside commended the Report and in particular referred to the Council's Housing Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019/20 to 2023/24. She requested further information in terms of the percentage drop in lets made to homeless households, and in response the Chair of ACJP indicated that he would require to seek further information and revert back in due course.

The Director of Children, Families and Justice responded to questions from Councillors Bell and Devine relating to decisions of bail supervision for cases and an update in respect of Angus Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service (AIDARS).

Councillor Bell thereafter referred to the Glen Isla and Glen Clova projects, in particular, referring to the collective attendance at a session of First Minister's Question Time. She also commended the hard work of all those involved in the provision of these services.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Angus Community Justice Partnership Activity Return Report for 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, as provided in Appendix 1 to the Report.

## **8. INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY UPDATE**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 January 2021, there was submitted Report No 59/21 by the Service Leader (Internal Audit) providing the Internal Audit Activity update on the main findings of the Internal Audit Report issued since the date of the last meeting.

The Report presented the progress with the Internal Audit activity within the Council up to 22 February 2021, provided an update on progress with the planned audit work and progress with implementing internal audit and counter fraud recommendations.

The Service Leader – Internal Audit provided an overview of the Report highlighting the impact of Covid 19 on audit work and the annual opinion for 2020.

One Internal Audit Report had been issued since the last meeting, in relation to:-

- Data Analysis/Continuous Auditing – Payroll and Accounts Payable (Creditors) (October-December 2020).

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the update on progress with the planned Internal Audit work;
- (iii) to note management's progress in implementing internal audit and counter fraud recommendations; and
- (iii) to note the position with regard to the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Opinion for 2020/21, as detailed within Section 4 of the Report.

## **9. ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021-22**

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 March 2020, there was submitted Report No 60/21 by the Service Leader (Internal Audit) providing the Service Leader's Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22 for approval.

The Report indicated that in terms of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), the Service Leader (Internal Audit) was required to set a risk based audit plan sufficient to provide the required assurances to members and officers in relation to corporate governance, risk management and internal controls.

Attached as Appendix 1 to the Report were the outcomes of the annual planning exercise and the Service Leader's proposed 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan, for approval.

The 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan set out the proposed activity to be performed by the Council's Internal Audit team in order to allow the Service Leader (Internal Audit) to provide an Annual Internal Audit opinion in June 2022.

Having heard from the Service Leader (Internal Audit), the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that a risk based approach methodology had been utilised to develop the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22; and
- (ii) to approve the proposed 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan.