

ANGUS COUNCIL

INFORMATION REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD 24 June 2021 TO 9 September 2021

REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

ABSTRACT

This report provides information to members with regard to services in the Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth Directorate, albeit that a decision is not required in terms of the current Scheme of Delegation to Officers and the Order of Reference of Committees.

1. BACKGROUND

Angus Council, at a special meeting on 19 November 2013 took a number of decisions which changed the way the Council conducted its committee business. Fundamental to this was the streamlining of processes with a focus on key strategy and policy matters.

One element of this was the production of "Information Reports". These information reports summarise information that would in the past have gone to a council committee for "noting".

The information schedules are in accordance with that principle.

2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION – SCHEDULES

There is one schedule which contains key background information related to services delivered in the Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth directorate for the period 24 June 2021 to 9 September 2021 These are accessed via the Council's internet page.

Where there are references to other documents (eg: consultation documents/audit reports) that are associated with the relevant schedule a link to that document has also been included.

3. REPORT AUTHOR

This report and associated schedules has been compiled by Alison Smith, Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth who can be contacted by emailing SmithAJ@angus.gov.uk

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Schedule 1 – Choice for Angus Participatory Budgeting activity 2021/2022

Schedule 2 – Timetable

ANGUS COUNCIL

9 September 2021

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Choice for Angus Participatory Budgeting activity

ABSTRACT

This report presents an update on the activity to date in the 2021/22 round of participatory budgeting in Angus.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Participatory Budgeting is a way for communities to have a direct say in how Local Authorities spend their money and is a tool for community engagement and a resource to build on the wider development of participatory democracy in Scotland.

1.2 Angus Council at its meeting on 8 June 2021 considered Report 195/21 and agreed to the extension of the timescale to spend allocations from 2019/20 Choice for Angus, identified the focus of the activity to address inequalities aligned to recovery and renewal post Covid; and agreed a specific process being:

- £65,000 will be available in each locality.
- A short life officer working group would be established
- Finalised list of proposals to be presented to Angus Council at its meeting on the 9 September 2021
- Proposals sought from council departments, other Community Planning Partners as well as social enterprise companies and local businesses
- Awareness raising of the voting process which will be held in November 2021

2. PROGRESS OF 2021/2022 CHOICE FOR ANGUS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING ACTIVITY

2.1 The summer recess and changes to staffing/resources resulted in the timeline for some aspects of Choice for Angus 2021 being altered. This is to ensure sufficient time for effective engagement and the development of robust and sustainable proposals. This amendment to the timeline will not impact on the public vote scheduled for end of November 2021 or the spending of budgets within the required timescale.

2.2 Information about the process and the criteria required for proposals was issued to Angus Council services, Community Planning partners, Third Sector Interface as well as small businesses and social enterprise companies on 2 August 2021. Formal applications were then invited with a return deadline of 27 August 2021.

2.3 A short life working group was established consisting of 5 Community Council Chairs to represent the community councils across Angus; 2 members to represent the Third Sector and 3 former LEADER Local Action group members plus council officers to progress this activity.

2.4 The working group will agree a set of protocols to guide the governance of the proposals that address inequalities aligned to recovery and renewal post Covid. This will enable the group to have a robust and rigorous selection process that will meet the need for current and future Participatory Budgeting and funding grant activity. The working group will agree a final list of projects to present to Angus Council at their meeting on 4 November 2021.

2.5 A communication timetable and timeline of future actions / meetings has been planned to ensure those involved in the projects and the residents of Angus are kept informed of the progress at regular intervals.

2.6 The Policy and Resources committee, at its meeting of 8 June 2021 agreed that Consul should be the voting platform used for this round of Participatory Budgeting as it is specifically designed to be an

open and transparent platform for citizen participation and engagement including participatory budgeting. Support is required for this from CoSLA therefore the plan is to use social pinpoint, an existing engagement tool, for the initial publicity and voting but to migrate all the information and continuous dialogue to Consul in December. This will introduce the public to use it for ongoing PB activity dialogue particularly given we hope to use the process to administer other funds which require public engagement to inform our decisions as to how we allocate funding to projects.

3 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications for this report. CoSLA covers all costs of Consul.

4 **REPORT AUTHOR**

This report and associated schedules has been compiled by Helen Reid, Vibrant Communities Team Leader who can be contacted by emailing reidh@angus.gov.uk

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET 2021/22 - TIMELINE

week commencing	Action
02-Aug	Information sent to Departments; Services; Community Planning Partnership; TSI; Social Enterprises and small businesses re proposals for projects for PB budget
	Invite representatives for working group from Community Councils chairs; former LEADER Local Action Group; Third Sector Collaborative; Social Enterprise network. small business etc AC Officers, notes of interest to be in by 15th August
09-Aug	Formal proposal applications sent to all above with a return date of 27 August
27-Aug	Submission of proposals
01-Sep	1st working group meeting to inform/raise awareness of agreed PB process (including governance) and discuss proposals and suggest improvements
	Publicise via AC Comms and networks
08-Sep	2nd working group meeting (continuation of discussion of proposals and feed back to applicants)
09-Sep	Committee report outlining timelines and progress
15-Sep	3rd working group meeting
29-Sep	4th working group meeting - agenda to include final list of projects for agreement
04-Nov	Angus Council committee consider and agree final list of projects
05-Nov	Communications to public of agreed projects
20/21 Nov	Public vote (online))
22-Nov	Identify successful projects
	Inform successful applicants
16-Dec	Report final projects selected to Angus Council committee
31-Mar-22	Evaluation and reports from projects