

ANGUS COUNCIL

16 DECEMBER 2021

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS: INFORMATION REPORTS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval of interim arrangements with regard to providing elected members with information reports.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) approves the interim arrangements in relation to the provision of Information Reports as detailed in this report; and
- (ii) agrees that these interim arrangements will remain in place in the short term with a further review of the arrangements taking place after the summer recess.

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 Previously during 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of interim arrangements were approved in relation to decision making including interim arrangements for Information Reports. The arrangements sought officers, as far as operationally possible in light of impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, to prepare the same information on a four weekly basis as would normally be included in information reports put to members formally at Council and Committees. The reports were posted on the Document Centre to allow elected members to access the reports and also 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 were emailed to the 3 religious representatives at the same time as they were posted on the Document Centre.

3.2 The interim arrangements ceased as per the decision of Angus Council on 5 November 2020 and the previous practice of Information Reports being submitted to Committees/Council was re-established.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The importance of 'Information Reports' being presented to elected members and the public is recognised however due to the concurrent impact of Covid-19, staff vacancies and illness, and significant workloads, it is proposed to revert to the interim arrangements agreed previously as detailed in Section 3 above, from January 2022.

4.2 A further review of the arrangements and a Report will be presented to Council following the summer recess.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the public will be able to access the information on the Council's website as is 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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