

## **ANGUS COUNCIL**

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 22 August 2023 at 2.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, GAVIN NICOL, CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, LYNNE DEVINE, HEATHER DORAN, IAIN GALL, ROSS GREIG, LOUISE NICOL, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, MARTIN SHEPHERD, LOIS SPEED AND DEREK WANN.

Councillor FOTHERINGHAM, Convener, in the Chair.

### **VALEDICTORY**

At the commencement of business, the Convener intimated the retirement of Vivien Smith the Director Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform on 1 September 2023 and on behalf of the Committee expressed gratitude for her invaluable work with Angus Council over many years and wished her a long and healthy retirement.

#### **1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

There were no apologies intimated.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY**

There were no declarations of interest or statements of transparency made.

#### **3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 June 2023 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

#### **4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2023**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 June 2023, there was submitted Report No 210/23 by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, relating to quarter one (1 April to 30 June) of 2023 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 a 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.

Mark Lowe, Group Commander provided a brief overview of the Report and was also heard in relation to the key performance indicators, targets and the Community Safety Engagement Programmes and Notable Events'.

Various points were raised by Councillors in relation to the "Think Before you Park Initiative" and the "Time for Change" response model.

In commending the Report, the work of the service including the vast amount of community safety and engagement activities undertaken, 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 April to 30 June 2023.

It was further agreed that a session for members be organised, by Scottish Fire & Rescue, on the Time for Change model and Councillors be provided with leaflets for constituents to highlight the Think before you Park Initiative.

*Prior to the commencement of the following item, the Convener paid tribute to Chief Inspector Leanne Blacklaw, Local Area Commander for Angus, who had taken up a new post leading the*

*national portfolios in Partnerships, Preventions and Community Wellbeing with immediate effect and wished her every success in her new role.*

**5. POLICE SCOTLAND - ANGUS LOCAL POLICING AREA QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2023**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 June 2023, there was submitted Report No 211/23 by Chief Superintendent Phil Davison, which updated the Committee on the performance results for the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

Appendix A to the Report provided updates on violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour, acquisitive crime and support for victims, road safety, effective engagement and communication, shared learning and training, environmental responsibility and estate management and a thematic spotlight on reducing the stigma and harm of drug use and drugs supply.

Thereafter Chief Inspector Ross Fitzgerald provided an informative overview of the policing priorities detailed in the Report and answered a number of questions from members.

The Convener also took the opportunity to commend the work of the services.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note the Angus Local Policing Area Quarterly Report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

**6. ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

There was submitted Report No 212/23 by the Chief Executive which detailed the Annual Report of the Angus Child Protection Committee for the period August 2021 to July 2022. Alison Todd, the Independent Chair of the Child Protection Committee was present and highlighted the work undertaken across Angus by individual agencies and in partnership to deliver National, Tayside wide, and local child protection outcomes to improve the lives of children at risk of harm.

Ms Todd highlighted issues which were ongoing to improve child protection practice throughout Angus along with key trends which demonstrated a continued increase in demand across frontline child protection services.

A number of questions were raised by members in relation to the increased demand on the service and after reassurance that every effort was made to continue to make the service as good as possible in Scotland, the Committee welcomed and noted the contents of the Report.

**7. ANGUS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

There was submitted Report No 213/23 by the Chief Executive presenting the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) Annual Report for April 2021 to March 2022. Equally Safe was Scotland's national strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls, with local Violence Against Women Partnerships providing the multi-agency forum to deliver this. Chief Officers across Angus individually and collectively had responsibility to ensure that there were clear reporting processes in place between AVAWP and the Chief Officers Group.

The Report presented the work undertaken in Angus by individual agencies and in partnership to improve Gender Based Violence practise in Angus throughout the reporting period.

Of note during the reporting period was a decrease by 1% nationally on recorded police domestic abuse incidents but a rise of 12% in Angus. The reasons for the increase were currently being explored and may be attributed to improvements to the Police response to Domestic Abuse, including doubling of specialist Domestic Abuse Officers and two officers being dedicated as a resource to Angus. It was also noted that the Sub-Groups of the AVAWP had been restructured and realigned to allow for better strategic oversight. The Sub-Groups were now; Self Evaluation and Continuous Improvement, Practice Development, Prevention and Protecting People Workforce Learning and Development.

The Committee also heard Mr Ewen West, Independent Chair of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership who highlighted the main points within the Report.

Following questions from Councillors Bell and Speed on the deepening level of partnership which was growing year on year, the Committee, having welcomed the Report, agreed: -

- (i) to note the contents of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) Annual Report 2021 to 2022, attached as an Appendix to the Report; and
- (ii) to note the key trends and areas for development emerging from the Report.

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

## **8. ANNUAL CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER REPORT 2022-23**

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 October 2022, there was submitted Report No 214/23 by the Chief Social Work Officer presenting the Angus Council Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for 2022 to 2023.

The Report indicated there was a requirement to ensure oversight and accountability within the local authority for all social work and social care services, including those delegated to the Integration Joint Board.

The Report and Appendix provided an overview of how Angus Council performed in the delivery of a wide range of social work and social care services, including commissioned services during 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The Chief Social Work Officer thereafter provided a summary of the key priorities for social work and social care for 2023-24 including work to ensure sufficient provision of local care options for children, young people and adults, continued development of support for carers and whole family support alongside managing the implications emerging from the National Care Service Bill and other significant policy and legislative developments.

Following questions from members, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Annual Chief Social Work Officer Report for 2022/2023 as outlined in the Appendix to the Report.

*At this stage in the meeting (4.50 pm) the Committee resolved to adjourn for a 5 minute period, thereafter, (the time being 16.55) the Committee resolved, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 21(8), that the meeting would re-convene on Tuesday 29 August at 10 am.*