

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors MARK McDONALD, KENNY BRAES, SERENA COWDY, JACK CRUICKSHANKS, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAN McLAREN, LLOYD MELVILLE, LOUISE NICOL, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, HEATHER DORAN, MARTIN SHEPHERD, LOIS SPEED, TOMMY STEWART and BETH WHITESIDE.

Councillor McDONALD, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Jill Scott, with Councillor Heather Doran substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

The Committee agreed to note that there were no declarations of interest or statements of transparency made.

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 November 2024 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee of 13 December 2024, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

4. REQUEST TO SPEAK

The Convener intimated that a Request to Speak had been received from Mr Ian Nimmo White in relation to Report No 13/25 on Petition – Traffic Calming, B9113, Gowanbank, Forfar.

The Committee agreed to hear the Request immediately prior to consideration of Item 6.

5. ANGUS COUNCIL SPEED LIMIT STRATEGY – PROPOSED REVIEW

There was submitted Report No 12/25 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, advising of consultations, publications, and funding announcements by Scottish Government to support the Scottish Government Road Safety Framework to 2030 which set out a vision for Scotland to have the best road safety performance in the world by 2030 and an ambitious long-term goal where no one was seriously injured or killed on our roads by 2050. The Report recommended that in light of these publications and funding that a review of the Angus Council Speed Limit Strategy be undertaken, and that a Member/Officer Working Group be established to undertake the review and report back to this Committee at an appropriate time.

The Report indicated that on 31 October 2024 Transport Scotland published “The Implementation Guide for 20 mph Speed Limits in Scotland”, which noted that the Scottish Government remained committed to making our streets safer and to the transformation of our towns and cities to ensure people were prioritised over motor vehicles, increasing the options for people to walk, wheel or cycle when they made those everyday short journeys.

The Council adopted the Angus Council Speed Limit Strategy in 2008 which had served the council over a number of years and followed the national guidance at the time. The national guidance provided a consistent approach to the setting of speed limits across Scotland and within individual settlements, which enabled an understanding by drivers of the required

restrictions and encouraged compliance. However, in light of the above updates and changes, the Angus Council Strategy was no longer as well aligned to the national approach.

The Director of Infrastructure and Environment introduced the Report and responded to questions from Members.

Following comments, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the consultation, publications, and funding announcements from Scottish Government;
- (ii) to note the national Safe System approach to road safety;
- (iii) that the Angus Council Speed Limit Strategy should be reviewed in light of (i) and (ii) above;
- (iv) to establish a Member/Officer Working Group to undertake the review and report, at an appropriate time, back to this Committee; and
- (v) to appoint Councillors McDonald, Braes, Shepherd, Stewart, McLaren and Doran to the Member/Officer Working Group.

As this stage in the meeting, and prior to consideration of Report No 13/25, Mr Nimmo White addressed the Committee in relation to the Petition submitted in connection with residents' concerns with the speeding of vehicles at Gowanbank, Forfar (Item 6). Mr Nimmo White thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak. After giving a background to the Petition, Mr White requested that the Committee consider one or more options to help address the resident's concerns.

The Convener thanked Mr Nimmo White for his presentation, and he withdrew to the public benches.

6. PETITION – TRAFFIC CALMING, B9113 GOWANBANK, FORFAR

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 22 October 2024, there was submitted Report No 13/25 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, advising of a petition received in connection with residents' concerns regarding the speeding of vehicles on the B9113 in Gowanbank, Forfar. The Report detailed findings of engineering investigations and brought forward an options appraisal, as presented in Appendix 2 of the Report, on potential mitigation measures to be deployed if deemed appropriate.

The Director of Infrastructure and Environment then introduced the Report recommending that the Committee agree to adopt Option 1 which was to do nothing at this time, taking into account the evidence regarding speeds, accidents and the proposals agreed in Report 12/25.

Following a number of comments from Members, Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Braes moved that the Committee agrees: -

- (i) to note receipt of the petition;
- (ii) to note the detail set out in the findings of engineering investigations;
- (iii) to note the detail set out in the options appraisal in Appendix 2 of the Report; and
- (iv) to adopt Option 1 – Do Nothing, as outlined in Appendix 2 of the Report, at this time, taking into account the evidence regarding speeds and accidents, and the proposals in Report No. 12/25 for a review of the Angus Council Speed Limit Strategy. The situation would be reviewed following the conclusion of the Speed Limit Strategy Review

COUNCILLOR MCLAREN, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR DEVINE MOVED, AS AN AMENDMENT, THAT THE COMMITTEE AGREES: -

- (I) TO NOTE RECOMMENDATIONS (I), (II) AND (III) OF REPORT NO 13/25; AND

- (II) IN TERMS OF RECOMMENDATION (IV) OF THE REPORT, TO ADOPT OPTION TWO TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT FROM 30MPH TO 20MPH, AS OUTLINED IN APPENDIX 2 OF THE REPORT.

On the vote being taken, the Members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors McDonald, Braes, Duff, Shepherd and Whiteside (5).

For the amendment:-

Councillors Cowdy, Cruickshanks, Devine, Fotheringham, McLaren, Melville, Nicol, Proctor, Doran, Speed and Stewart (11).

The amendment was declared carried and became the finding of the meeting.

7. REVIEW OF COMMERCIAL WASTE SERVICES AND CHARGES

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 19 October 2023, there was submitted Report No 14/25 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, bringing forward proposals for adjusting charges levied by the Council for the collection and disposal of commercial wastes.

The Report indicated that the Council, as the waste collection authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, had a duty to collect commercial and industrial wastes where requested to do so by premises in Angus. The Act required the council to recover reasonable costs for both the collection and disposal of waste from a commercial or industrial premise.

The Director of Infrastructure and Environment introduced the Report advising members that the reason that it did not form part of the budget setting process was two-fold, how prices were set was more complex and it allowed customers to be invoiced. He further advised that every attempt had been made to keep services as efficient as possible and costs as low as possible.

The Committee agreed to the application of the reviewed charges for 2025/26, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report.

8. ARBROATH HARBOUR - PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE AUDIT 2024

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20 August 2024, there was submitted Report No 15/25 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, presenting the updated version of the Marine Safety Management System for Arbroath Harbour along with the results of the 2024 Port Marine Safety Code audit carried out by the Council's Designated Person, which measured the Council's performance against the Port Marine Safety Code.

The Director of Infrastructure and Environment introduced the report highlighting that performance been found to be excellent in terms of compliance to the code and paid thanks to the Harbourmaster and his team.

Following positive comments from members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the updated Marine Safety Management System which was in place for Arbroath Harbour and formed an integral part of the safe operation of Arbroath Harbour and the audit process; and
- (ii) to note the results of the Port Marine Safety Code audit, including the observations, recommendations, and areas of good practice identified.