

**NOTE OF MEETING OF  
ANGUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP  
12.11.10**

**PRESENT**

Neil Prentice (Chair)	Economic Development and ECP
Prue Dowie	Economic Development and ECP
Jacqui McNeill	Corporate Planning
Anne Mollison	Corporate Planning
Councillor David May	Angus Council
Mai Hearne	AAVO
Tom Black	Angus College
Charles Goodall	Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
Jane Mc Ewen	Job Centre Plus Tayside (JCP)
Alex Dalrymple	Scottish Enterprise Tayside
Eric Guthrie	TACTRAN
Richard Pinn	VisitScotland

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
1.1	Neil Prentice welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from David Valentine, Rosaleen Brown, Shona Weir and Susan Wilson. Peter Donald had asked to group to accept his resignation (retirement).	
<b>2</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</b>	
2.1	<p>The minute of the meeting of 10 September 2010 was approved and the Action Points reviewed. Matters not actioned nor appearing elsewhere on the Agenda were carried forward, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOA – Meeting to be arranged with Susan Wilson on Workforce Planning</li> <li>• FSB to send in final Survey Monkey report</li> <li>• Neil Prentice to forward the Angus Council committee report on development land to Alex Dalrymple.</li> </ul>	<p>AM/NP CG NP</p>
2.2	Agenda items were reprogrammed due to time availability but the minutes followed the schedule of the Agenda. Relevant matters arising from the last minute have been updated within the item.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (SOAIG)</b>	
3.1	It was agreed to circulate the draft SOA Indicators and Service Plan Actions mid-year Progress Report.	PD
3.2	Neil Prentice spoke to the draft presentation to be given by David Valentine to the SOAIG meeting of 26 November 2010. The content was discussed at length. The list of partners and strategies are to be updated and the draft circulated to partners for comment by 19 November 2010.	<p>PD All</p>

3.3	It was felt that it might be beneficial to have an AEDP member at the SOAIG meeting. Charles Goodall was asked but may not be able to attend due to such short notice.	
3.4	Anne Mollison advised that communications about the FSF funding bids has been investigated and that everyone to be notified had been notified. The decision about future funding had been deferred until after the budget (18 November 2010). This would have an impact on AEP and ASEP officer posts.	
4	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b>	
4.1	The working document for the updated Angus Economic Strategy had been circulated after the last meeting. The closing date for comments was set as Friday 10 December 2010. There was some discussion regarding the format of the document and it was suggested that the strategy should be written in a form that assists in the promotion of Angus (e. g. "Angus at a Glance", something to sell the area to potential investors). There was no final agreement on this.	All
4.2	Both the 2010 Angus Economic Digest and the two editions of the Angus Economic Bulletin had been placed on the Portal ( <a href="http://www.angusahead.com">www.angusahead.com</a> ). Neil Prentice thanked Anne Mollison for the suggestion for an annual update on the Digest and advised that it was being considered.	
4.3	A copy of the Angus Recovery Plan would be sent to SOAIG.	PD
4.4	An Action Plan had been drafted but not circulated. The meeting approved the setting up of an Angus Forum, composed in part by high-level business representatives (influencers) as suggested in David Valentine's presentation for the SOAIG on 26 November 2010. Alex Dalrymple offered to help develop the Forum.	AD
5.	<b>ANGUS EMPLOYABILITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE</b>	
5.1	Neil Prentice updated the meeting on the work of the Angus Employability Partnership in accordance with the previously circulated AEP update. The highlights were that:	
5.2	A lottery bid was being developed with a meeting scheduled on 17 November 2010 with the Lottery representatives.	
5.3	Representatives attended the Welfare to Work Conference in September 2010. This raised the profile of the employability agenda in Scotland	
5.4	An information event was held in Brechin in October 2010. Jane McEwen reported that it had opened JCP's eyes to the fact that there were pockets of deprivation in Angus.	
5.5.	A two-stage tender has been advertised for the purchase of an Angus Management Information system for March 2011.	

6.	<b>ANGUS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE</b>	
6.1	The meeting was circulated with copies of the paper on the Social Economy Initiative (SEI) up-date November 2010. The highlight was that the Social Enterprise Network (ASEN) had now been in operation for twelve months and that SEI was supporting ASEN to become a constituted group.	MH
6.2	ASEN had 11 organisations as members and a bid had been submitted to <b>Fairer Scotland Funding - Post 2011</b> , for the continuation of the project (delivery of social enterprise development services for Angus).	
6.3	SEI was becoming involved in the procurement side, advocating community benefits. Mai Hearne, Neil Prentice and Mark Allan (Angus Council Procurement Manager) had met to discuss the tendering process.	
6.4	SEI was concerned about the closure of rural shops and associated post-offices. One individual keen to sell had attracted no private sector interest; Mai Hearne felt that with local support a social enterprise could be created.	
6.5	Charles Goodall warned that post-offices practices were detrimental to themselves as people were encouraged more and more to use their on-line services. Local shops needed the income from local post-offices in order to survive. Cllr May reported that this was especially so in Angus.	
6.6	The 2011-2012 Framework for Delivery between AAVO and VCA (mentioned at the meeting of 10 September 2010) had been endorsed by Community Planning two days previously. Mai Hearne would circulate copies to the AEDP.	
7.	<b>Update from TACTRAN (Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership)</b>	
7.1	The study on the impact of congestion on lorry movements in the area had not yet been completed. In its final format, there were not many issues in Angus. TACTRAN would work with Angus Council (Roads) and the industry to decide how it should be taken forward.	All
7.2	Eric Guthrie also advised that the McEwan meeting with Angus Council officers and Members to discuss the possible movement of seed potatoes by rail had taken place. There was no opportunity at present although the Montrose sidings held the existing infrastructure. Following a query, Eric confirmed that there was insufficient space at Arbroath. Eric Guthrie asked partners to help promote the use of seed-corn funding to help meet physical limitations and timescale constraints.	
7.3	TACTRAN was working on "Park and Ride" at Stirling and also on the A90 at Dundee's northern gateway, where the most opportunities lay.	

7.4	TACTRAN was following up on the June 2009 study into the Carnoustie to Monifieth railway as the Aberdeen service was seen to be important for connectivity and leisure/tourism. TACTRAN was one of the seven RTP (transport protocol for real-time applications) in Scotland.	
7.5	Cllr May queried action on the congestion at the Laurencekirk junction. Eric Guthrie replied that it was not in the TACTRAN area but TACTRAN was working with NESTRAN	
8	<b>TOURISM UPDATE</b>	
8.1	Richard Pinn updated the meeting on management changes at VisitScotland. Malcolm Roughhead was the new Chief Executive and Mike Cantley, the new Chairman. A new post for Digital Media (Robbie Parish), as part of VisitScotland's strategy to be pro-active, was welcomed by Cllr May, who hoped the updated website ( <a href="http://www.visitscotland.com">www.visitscotland.com</a> ) would be good for Angus. Eddie Byers had not been replaced.	
8.2	Scottish Enterprise was supporting the marketing of key destinations. There was an emerging picture of DMOs in Scotland (Destination Management Organisation), each with a different structure and funding arrangement. It was explained that a DMO is led by the business community, which takes control of the promotion / marketing of their own patch and work with neighbouring towns (e.g. the recently established Highland Perthshire DMO, Pitlochry / Aberfeldy). There were no DMOs yet in Angus – the nearest equivalent is the Blairgowrie and East Perthshire Tourist Association.	
8.3	Private sector businesses were being invited to contribute to a new Area Tourism Partnership particularly representatives of the sectoral groups in Angus. A meeting, to be facilitated by the Glamis Consultancy, at Forbes of Kingennie on 8 December 2010 would bring partners together to start implementing the Angus Tourism Plan.	
8.4	VisitScotland was working on various targeted media campaigns, including "wild day" and "walk and ramble". For Angus, these included "The Perfect Day" (featuring the Angus Glens and the Angus coastline) and the Angus Glens Walking Festival.	
9.	<b>UPDATE FROM MIGRANTS WORKERS STRATEGY GROUP</b>	
9.1	Mai Hearne reported that the Migrant Workers Strategy Group had last met on 19 October 2010. The meeting had been called mainly to provide feedback on the multicultural events held in June 2010.	
9.2	As vice chair of the Strategy Group, Mai Hearne had been invited to chair a half-day seminar on 18 November 2010, to be held at the Fire Station in Forfar.	

9.3	<p>The Strategy Group was concerned by the changing profile of migrant workers over the past two years and by the fit of services offered. Group members had been asked to submit an update regarding the impact migrant workers have had on their organisation / service over the last few years, which would be used for discussion on the day.</p>	
9.4	<p>From this seminar, a new strategy could be developed. Neil Prentice advised that he had discussed the changing profile with Tom Black. Angus College had reported that there had been no decline in the number of migrant workers but they had moved on to become permanent and seeking new skills.</p>	
10	<b>DWP WORKPLAN</b>	
10.1	<p>Jane McEwen reported that the work-plan was up-to-date. The tendering process scheduled for January 2011 had been completed with three Prime Contractors to be identified for Scotland, although the split by area was unclear. The Prime Contractors could then bid. E-mails may be sent out later in November or in early December for roll-out in Summer 2011.</p>	
10.2	<p>Tom Black confirmed that potential bidders had been asked about their involvement with the private sector. There was a big push to make sure that local provision was run from Angus and not from Glasgow.</p>	
10.3	<p>At this stage JCP had no involvement and no further information. However, JCP was aware that Media, a potential Prime Contractors had already approached target groups.</p>	
10.4	<p>Jane McEwen was able to report back on a number of initiatives, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Work Clubs</u>: The Government was looking at running self-help clubs although not funded through the DWP. People would source premises themselves where they could discuss how to get jobs. JCP was looking to drive work clubs along and some may be established in JCP areas but JCP would not be involved in them. JCP had been tasked to have a number running in Scotland by the year-end;</li> <li>• <u>Work Together</u>: One initiative to be taken forward in Scotland by the Scottish Government by the end of the year would be to involve more people in volunteering. This would make them more attractive to employers, update their skills and provide them with self esteem. Cllr May was interested in how much volunteering there was in Angus (32%) and in the type of people that volunteer;</li> <li>• <u>Work Experience</u> (18-21 year olds): JCP had been tasked to arrange work placements, under an initiative to be launched in January 2011. No funding for this scheme was available and JCP was in discussion with the Scottish Government about how it would work;</li> </ul>	

10.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>New Enterprise Self Employment</u>: Grants of £2,000 would be available from Spring 2011 to mature adults (aged 25 and above). Still to be decided was finding out what was already out there and how it should be targeted;</li> <li>• <u>Service Academies</u>: Pre-employment training was currently provided in the retail and hospitality sectors. Although money was tight, the Scottish Government was looking at other sectors to receive funding.</li> </ul> <p>As yet, JCP was unable to assess the impact. Customers would be passed on to other work programmes. JCP's future role was unclear.</p>	
11	<b>ROUND TABLE &amp; AOCB</b>	
11.1	<p>Charles Goodall reported that FSB membership locally had increased. There was a lot of effort to keep trade local, to raise awareness of the Reputable Traders' Scheme and on procurement.</p> <p>11.2 A new business network (similar to but much cheaper at £2.00 / entry than BNI) would be held in Dundee on 9 December 2010. This networking initiative, started in Perth, had welcomed more than 85 businesses at its first event. Angus businesses should be encouraged to attend the Dundee event.</p> <p>11.3 Cllr May welcomed the announcement that a branch of the V&amp;A museum was coming to the Dundee Waterfront. It would change the perception of Dundee, have a positive impact on Angus and be a huge boost to businesses.</p> <p>11.4 Alex Dalrymple cautioned that all the £45 million funding was not yet in place for the V&amp;A in Dundee. An announcement was expected shortly from the Scottish Government.</p> <p>11.5 Alex Dalrymple also advised of the launch of a £70million investment fund to unlock the barriers in port infrastructure. This would be applicable to the ports at Montrose and Dundee. Initial applications closed on 10 December 2010 but the fund would be open for four years. Information on the fund would be circulated to AEDP members. Montrose had not yet agreed to participate in the four-year joint investment funding.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>AD</p>
12	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
12.1	<p><b><u>BOOKED FOR COUNTY BUILDINGS, FORFAR</u></b>  Friday 21 January (2011) 10am -12.30pm</p>	