

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 5 MARCH 2002

SOCIAL POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE

SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ABSTRACT

This Report presents the draft Social Inclusion Strategy which has been drawn up by the Member/Officer Group appointed by the Council.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Sub-Committee is asked to recommend that the Policy and Resources Committee approve the draft Angus Council Social Inclusion Strategy and refer it to the Community Planning Steering Group for consultation with the Council's community planning partners recognising that the draft may be amended to take account of any views received.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 23 March 1999, the Policy and Resources Committee approved a recommendation by this Sub-Committee that a Member/Officer Group on Social Inclusion be established. The membership of the Group comprised:

Councillor Glennis Middleton (Convener)
Councillor Bill Robertson
Councillor Ian Angus
Councillor Iain McIntosh
David Sawers, Director of Finance
Bill Robertson, Director of Social Work
Bill Strachan, Head of Policy and Performance Unit
Jan Nowak, Head of Educational Services Pupil & Parent Support
Colin Robertson, Head of Planning & Transport Policy
Stewart Edward, Head of Policy, Development and Support

The Group was assisted by Vivien Smith, Policy and Performance Officer and Norma Lawson, Committee Officer who provided policy and administrative support respectively.

3. THE MEMBER/OFFICER GROUP'S APPROACH

The Group met on eight occasions and considered a range of papers on the subject of social inclusion. Members took account of the social justice agenda of the Scottish Executive in drawing up the draft strategy.

The Group has concentrated on developing targets and milestones for the Council to work towards through the delivery of services for which a local authority is directly responsible. However, any social justice/inclusion strategy must have regard to the other agencies working in the field and it would now be appropriate for the Council's community planning partners to contribute to an Angus wide strategy.

The Group set itself the following remit:

Against a backdrop of the vision statement set out in the Scottish Office document "Social Inclusion Strategy/Opening the Door to a Better Standard", the emerging Community Plan for Angus, the Council's corporate strategy document "Angus Towards the Millennium" and the previous Member/Officer Group reports:

- *to produce a "vision" of social inclusion in Angus*
- *to produce a document setting out explicit objectives which will assist the thinking of the various departments of the Council with a view to their identifying and supporting - or identifying and implementing - specific pieces of action which will contribute to the promotion of social inclusion*
- *to identify key areas of social inclusion policy and assist in developing new ideas for action having regard to work done by other agencies in other areas*
- *to make proposals for an evaluation framework to monitor success in promoting a more inclusive society.*

The Group has now produced a draft Strategy which is considered to fulfil the remit, and a copy is attached. The Group has also produced two other supporting documents which discuss how the strategy can be developed and actioned in relation to access to services and an anti-poverty strategy for Angus.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While this Report has no direct financial implications, the development and actioning of some of the proposals may require funding. These would be submitted to the appropriate Committee for consideration prior to implementation.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

While this Report, in itself, has no direct human rights implications, the development of and actioning of many of the proposals in the strategy will have a fundamental impact on the human rights of individuals. These will be assessed as and when any specific action is taken.

6. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive and the Departments represented on the Member/Officer Group have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

7. CONCLUSION

The Member/Officer Group has concluded, after in depth research and deliberation, that the enclosed strategy and companion documents provide a sound platform for the Council to take forward, with its community planning partners, appropriate initiatives and action to deliver social justice to all sections of the Angus Community.

A B WATSON
Chief Executive

DAVID S SAWERS
Director of Finance

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing this Report.