

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2002

COMMUNITY BUDGETING CONSULTATION – RESPONSE BY ANGUS COUNCIL

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This Report seeks the Policy & Resources Committee's approval for a submission made to the Scottish Executive in response to a consultation on Community Budgeting. Community Budgeting aims to use information on public sector spending, on an area by area basis, to develop the delivery of services with community involvement.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee approves the response prepared by officers, and submitted to the Scottish Executive.

2. BACKGROUND

The Scottish Executive defines Community Budgeting as: '...the identification of the level and nature of mainstream spend in local areas by local authorities and other statutory agencies – and the subsequent use of this information to develop and deliver the services that a community demands, potentially through the vehicle of locally based partnership structures, and on principles of community engagement, social inclusion, and equality.'

It is identified as having 'the potential to offer one means of providing a more responsive and effective delivery of services at the local level, reflecting the multiple service needs of some communities.'

The Scottish Executive believe it should be aimed towards those communities that are at a disadvantage and/or in a vulnerable position (including rural communities).

Officers have a number of concerns over the difficulty of implementing such a scheme. Nevertheless, the proposals are seen as very relevant in the context of Community Planning, where the Council has the lead role in Angus.

The Angus Community Planning Steering Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, has made a separate response, and submitted a preliminary expression of interest in the Community Budgeting Grant. This grant (£2m, available 2002/03, £3m in 2003/04) could potentially be used to cover data and software requirements, staffing support/training, consulting fees, or other associated costs to take the development forward.

Due to the timescale allowed by the Executive, the attached response was submitted by officers with a note to explain that the document did not yet have committee approval, and that, if necessary, changes would be notified later.

A copy of the Consultation document is also attached.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications from this report, although members are asked to note that if a bid for the Community Budgeting Grant is to be embarked upon with Community Planning Steering Group partners,⁰ then a further report(s) with financial implications will be brought forward.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Directors of Finance and Law & Administration have been consulted in the development of this report.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

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 paper.