

REPORT NO 597/97

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE27 May 1997

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES JOINT SUPERVISED
ACCOMMODATION PROJECT****ABSTRACT**

This report outlines the current position in the development of a Supervised Accommodation Project to be situated in Dundee. Angus, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils propose to jointly bid to manage this Project.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Social work Committee:

1. Agree to support the Director of Social Work in submitting a bid to the Scottish Office to manage the proposed Supervised Accommodation Project in Dundee jointly with Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils.
2. Agrees to the Director of Social Work submitting the joint bid timeously when the specification for the hostel is agreed by the Scottish Office which maybe in advance of the next Social Work Committee in August.

2. INTRODUCTION

Report 655/96 Planning Proposals for Criminal Justice Services 1997-98 outlines plans for hostel accommodation to be situated in Dundee but managed jointly by Angus, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils. This report advised Social Work Committee of the involvement of Angus Council in the development of this Project.

3. PROPOSAL

The Supervised Accommodation Project is to be situated in King Street, Dundee on the premises of the former Jericho House. The draft specification submitted to the Scottish Office in March this year outlines the key factors in establishing such a Project.

The Project will provide an enhanced level of supervision within a structured and supportive environment for offenders who require more rigorous supervision than can be provided to them while they are living in the community. The hostel will contribute to public safety by reducing the risk of re-offending and increasing the capacity of offenders to live independent and law-abiding lives within the community.

In December 1996 the Social Work Services Group invited Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils to prepare a specification for the project as a result of which interested parties would tender for the management of the project. The specification was submitted in March of this year. However invitations to tender for the management of the project have not yet been invited. It is anticipated that this will take place during the recess of Committee.

The Project will provide a resource to the Courts and the Parole Board in Angus, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross for use by male and female offenders for whom these areas maybe regarded as 'home'. When places are available the service maybe offered to neighbouring authorities under a separate agreement.

Work undertaken by staff of the Project will focus on three principal areas:

- the reduction of re-offending,
- the increase of the residents respect for the rights of others in order to create and maintain a constructive relationship between project staff and residents
- to increase resident's self-reliance in order to enable them where appropriate to move on successfully to other accommodation.

The Project will be funded through 100% grant. The three Councils will maintain joint responsibility for the lease of the building and for the oversight of the management of the Project through an Advisory Group which will be established and chaired by a local Sheriff.

Staff employed at the Project will be the employees of Dundee City Council, who have recently established the posts should the joint bid be accepted.

Tenders for the refurbishment and upgrading of the premises have been received by Dundee City Council and work is expected to begin shortly.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6. CONCLUSION

This report outlines the current position in relation to the development of the Supervised Accommodation Project in Dundee should Angus, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils be successful in their bid to jointly manage this new and imaginative resource.

8 May 1997

W B Robertson
Director of Social Work

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.

