

ANGUS COUNCIL

**FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - 20 OCTOBER 1998
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 27 OCTOBER 1998**

FUNDING FOR CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER
PROTECTION**

ABSTRACT

This report recommends continued funding support for Angus Citizens Advice Bureau following agreement on a standard level of service for Angus citizens.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Angus Council support Angus Citizens Advice Bureau in this financial year (1998/99) with funding to the amount of £84,000, to be paid quarterly in advance.

2. ANGUS BUREAU

Angus Citizens Advice Bureau have office locations in Arbroath, Forfar and Montrose and have reached agreement with Angus Council to provide a standard level of service throughout Angus. Angus citizens will be provided with advice and information across a wide spectrum of areas such as consumer advice and money advice; and advice on marital, housing, benefits and employment matters.

The Bureau have a small core of staff plus part-time volunteers and are normally open a total of 70 hours per week to the public. Additional specialist services will also be available, as resources permit, to cover attendance at various tribunals, free legal clinics, and assistance with Small Claims Court representation.

3. LIAISON AND MONITORING

Angus Council's Trading Standards Officers and Social Workers regularly liaise with Bureau members.

For the purposes of the agreement drawn up between the parties, the Head of Consumer Protection and the Welfare Rights Manager (Social Work) will continue to act as Council representatives and monitoring officers. The agreement has been drawn up in consultation with the

Director of Law and Administration and details the services to be provided to Angus citizens in return for the recommended level of funding.

A copy of the Citizens Advice Bureau's 1997/98 Annual Report is available in the Member's Lounge.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A sum of £84,000 has been identified in the Miscellaneous Services Section of the Council's Revenue Budget, to meet this funding requirement.

5. CONSULTATION

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

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 extent in preparing this report.

S R Heggie
Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection

JM/FMCI
8.10.98