

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

8 DECEMBER 1998

**ANGUS ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS -
DISABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECT**

Report by the Chief Executive

ABSTRACT

This Report advises members of an initiative developed by the Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations with regard to disability and employment and which is part-funded by European Structural Funds.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:-

- (i) note that the Angus Association of Voluntary Organisation Project on Disability in Employment has been approved for European Structural Fund support;
- (ii) note that the project has clear links with the joint Angus, Dundee, and Perth and Kinross Employment Disability Unit and has the potential to work in a complementary fashion to the work of that unit;
- (iii) note that the local match funding contribution during the calendar year 1998 can be provided by the Council in the form of "support in kind"; and
- (iv) homologate a decision to make available a maximum contribution during the calendar year 1999 of £3,700 to the project.

2. BACKGROUND

Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations in February 1998 made application for European Structure Funds Support under Objective 3, Priority 4 in support of a Disability in Employment Project. At the time of application for European support the Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations were unaware of the range of work being undertaken by the joint Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils Employment Disability Unit.

The Association made the application based on an assumption that Angus Council might be able to provide them with an element of match funding for the project.

Approval for the project from Europe was granted in May 1998 and subsequently an advert for post of Co-ordinator within the project appeared in the press. At that time, the Employment Disability Unit became aware of the initiative and since this the two bodies have been involved in negotiations to ensure that the respective work that they are undertaking is complementary in nature.

The original application, as with all European applications, was for the period of one calendar year (or part of a calendar year). It is the hope of Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations, however, that the project will continue through to the end of the calendar year 2000.

During the period leading up to the original application being made for European support, the European Services Section of the Chief Executive's Department were asked to provide advice/assistance to the organisation in drafting the application. This assistance was provided.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The overall project during the current calendar year as applied for, and as approved would cost £38,254. Public match funding to a total of £19,127 (50%) of total cost can be met in part by Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations. The Association are, however, seeking match funding support via Angus Council of £5,000 for the project during the current calendar year. Following discussion between Officers of the Council a number of ways have been identified in which this funding can be provided "in kind" during the current year. These are as follows:-

- (a) provision of rent-free accommodation for a time limited period;
- (b) costs associated with the upgrade of the premises that the organisation will occupy in the Dens Road Industrial Units; and
- (c) assistance with installation of toilet facilities for people with disabilities in the same premises as identified in (b) above.

The Policy and Resources Committee are asked to note and approved these contributions in kind.

During discussions with Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations it has become clear that they would wish to obtain a financial contribution from Angus Council as match funding during the calendar year 1999. The value of the contribution being sought is £3,700.

Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations have indicated that during the calendar year 2000 they do not intend to seek any financial contribution as match funding from the Council.

The sum of £3,700 being sought with regard to the calendar year 1999 is a maximum sum and may be offset by other, as yet unidentified, contributions "in kind" which might be made available via the authority.

Whilst no specific provision has been made for this in any of the Council's Budgets, it is anticipated that a maximum sum of £3,700 spread over the two financial years 1998/99 and 1999/2000 can be accommodated within the Chief Executive Department's Economic Development budget.

Given the timescales applied by the European Funding Regimes it has been necessary to take decisions with regard to this matter outwith the normal cycle of Committee meetings, and accordingly the Committee are now requested to homologate the above course of action.

4. CONSULTATIONS

The Directors of Finance, Law and Administration and Personnel have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

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.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

WDS/BAK

15 October 1998

