

## ANGUS COUNCIL

## POLICY &amp; RESOURCES COMMITTEE

24 MARCH 1998

## VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGUS

## Report by the Chief Executive

**ABSTRACT**

This report sets out various developments related to supporting the improvement of Village Halls across Angus with a view to utilising these Village Halls:-

- (a) for the greater benefit of the community,
- (b) for the potential of delivering Angus Council and other agency services through these halls.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee:-

- (a) note, welcome and endorse the strategy set out in this report,
- (b) *homologate* the decision taken by the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Policy and Resources Committee to support the developments set out in Section 4 of this report, and
- (c) instruct Officers to bring back regular progress reports to this committee.

**2. BACKGROUND**

Members will recall the report prepared by the Member/Officer Group on Rural Issues

Members will also be aware that Angus Council is involved in leading the work of the Angus Rural Partnership.

Members will also be aware of the contents of the Council's proposals on decentralisation, and in particular those that affect the most rural parts of Angus.

This reports sets out a suggested strategy for developing rural Village Halls across the whole of Angus with a view to bringing them up to modern day standards in terms of their physical condition, and with a view to the potential for these Village Halls being utilised for community regeneration and future service delivery across Angus.

In undertaking this work, the Council have been involved in ongoing negotiation and discussion with Angus Federation of Village Hall Committees and individual Village Hall Committees across Angus.

Members are advised that there are a large number of Village Halls spread across the whole of Angus. These halls vary in terms of size and physical condition.

During the past year, in an effort to be as helpful as possible, Angus Council Property Services Department undertook surveys of all Angus Village Halls (those who wished to have surveys undertaken) to identify the works that would be required to bring them up to modern day standards, and to assist each hall to develop its own programme of maintenance and improvement.

It is important to recognise that individual development programmes are built around the needs of individual Village Halls, utilising a combination of funding opportunities available. It is suggested that a programme of developments to improve Village Halls across Angus be prepared in liaison with individual Village Hall Committees and with the Angus Federation of Village Halls. Adopting such an approach would, it is anticipated, mean that, as far as is possible, the needs/aspirations of individual Village Halls can be met during a three year period.

Members are also advised that Officers are currently discussing how those halls which are operated by 'local communities' but are currently in the ownership of the local authority might benefit from this proposal.

### **3. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

The discussions that have taken place between Angus Federation of Village Halls and Officers of the Council suggest that a two pronged approach be adopted in terms of the development of Village Halls. The two pronged approach is:-

- (a) Major works (including new build).
- (b) General improvements including provision of access facilities for the people with disabilities. (This would need to be undertaken in anticipation of the legislation emanating from the Disability Discrimination Act).

### 3.1 Major Works

In respect of major works, there are a number of grant aid sources from which large sums of money can be sought. These include:-

- (1) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Halls (Lottery Funding).
- (2) Scottish Office Capital Grants (this includes a local contribution from the Council, and the applicant body).
- (3) European Funding (European Funding can be accessed where a Village Hall is situated within the Objective 5b area).

#### 3.1.1 Programme of Major Developments

##### 3.1.1.1

In 1997/98, the Council, has supported one major improvement project at Northmuir Village Hall, near Kirriemuir. The elements involved in this initiative were:-

- (a) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Halls - £94,000.
- (b) Scottish Office - £47,000.
- (c) Angus Council - £23,500.
- (d) The applicant body - £23,500.

**Total £188,000**

Members are advised that all the necessary approvals in respect of this development have already been granted.

##### 3.1.1.2

For 1998/99, the following initiatives/projects were considered. (It is important for Members to be aware that given the different funding sources, and the possibility that any of these funding bodies may reject an element of the individual proposals, there is an opportunity for both substitution and/or deletion of projects).

The applications are:-

#### (i) **Memus Village Hall: Funding Package: New Build**

- (a) European 5b Funding - £75,000 (formal approval currently anticipated).

- (b) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Halls - £115,000 (formal approval currently anticipated).
- (c) Angus Council - £10,000 (funding now sought).
- (d) Scottish Office - £20,000 (application submitted).
- (e) The applicant body - £10,000.

**Total £230,000**

As can be seen from the notes set out in brackets above, it is likely that this project will receive the necessary approvals from all external funding bodies.

**(ii) Colliston Village Hall: Funding Package:  
New Build**

- (a) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Halls - £80,000 (application submitted).
- (b) Scottish Office - £40,000 (application submitted).
- (c) Angus Council - £20,000 (funding still to be considered).
- (d) Applicant body - £20,000.

**Total £160,000**

In terms of application procedures etc. to external bodies, all the necessary applications have been submitted and notification of the results of these applications is awaited.

**(iii) Newtyle Scout Hall: Funding Package:  
Complete Renovation**

- (a) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Halls - £50,000 (application still to be submitted).
- (b) Scottish Office - £25,000 (application submitted).
- (c) Angus Council - £12,500 (funding still to be considered).
- (d) Applicant Body - £12,500.

**Total £100,000**

This project is at a slightly earlier stage in development compared to the previous two. Members will be aware that there are a number of other Village Hall facilities in and around the Newtyle area as well as facilities which might become

available as a consequence of the closure of Newtyle Secondary School. Officers will undertake detailed discussion across departments and with external bodies in the Newtyle area to identify the best utilisation of these various resources.

### 3.1.1.3

In respect of the applications/projects for 1999/2000, formal applications have now been invited from communities across Angus. During the summer of 1998, decisions will need to be taken as to which of these applications should be taken forward. It should be noted that this is the last year in which 21<sup>st</sup> Century Hall Funding would be available, and it is therefore the last opportunity for significant new build.

## 3.4 Improvements to Village Halls

Funding applications have been submitted and approvals granted from a number of internal and external sources in support of a general improvements programme for Village Halls across Angus over a three year period. These approvals are as follows:-

- (a) Scottish National Rural Partnership - £50,000 over three years granted to Angus Federation of Village Halls in respect of improvements to halls for access for people with disabilities.
- (b) National Lottery - £50,000 over a three year period has been sought by Angus Federation of Village Halls (no decision as yet), to complement the above.
- (c) European 5b Village Hall Scheme - **£90,000** has been granted to Angus Council in respect of improvements to village halls within the 5b area.
- (d) Angus Council Local Challenge Fund - £90,000 to support general improvements to Village Halls across Angus.
- (e) Within the Council's Corporate Grant Aid Scheme, a sum of £10,000 is allocated per annum in support of Village Hall Developments.

A programme will be designed to assist Village Halls across Angus on the basis of the above grant packages.

## 4. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES DURING 1997/98

As a consequence of slippage funding becoming available from the Scottish Office and the opportunity to utilise Grant Aid available from Angus Council (available as a consequence of offers of grant having not been taken up by

approved bodies), an opportunity arose to undertake the following projects before the end of the financial year. This was agreed by the Convener and Vice Convener of the Policy and Resources Committee. The projects are set out in the following table:-

	<b>Applicant £</b>	<b>Scottish Office £</b>	<b>Angus Council £</b>
Glenisla Village Hall (IT link)	100	-	400
Kilry Village Hall (storage and disabled facilities)	500	-	1,100
Tarfside Village Hall (new water supply)	1,000	-	3,000
Glamis Village Hall (‘Rot’ eradication)	5,000	-	6,000
Northmuir Hall (supplement to main grant for equipment)	2,500	5,000	2,500
Forfar Pitstop (purchase of premises)	20,000	20,000	Nil
Lunanhead Hall (double glazing, central heating, extension)	4,512	9,024	4,512
Kirriemuir Guides (new roof)	4,000	4,000	Nil
Aberlemno Village Hall (central heating and double glazing)	4,512	9,024	4,512
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42,124</b>	<b>61,098</b>	<b>29,049</b>

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications for Angus Council in going ahead with the developments set out above, are that the Council would require to fund these initiatives to a total of £24,537. This expenditure can be met from :-

- (a) Slippage of offers of Grant in 1997/98 - £10,000;

- (b) Non-acceptance of offers of Grant in previous years carried forward - £8,450; and
- (c) £10,599 to be allocated from the Local Challenge Fund allocation.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

The above package is a complex one, but when delivered it will ensure that improvements are put in place to allow the Council to deliver appropriate services through these improved Village Halls. These improvements which will create modern day facilities should also enable individual Village Halls to develop programmes which are self-sustaining into the next century.

Officers are content that each of the developments set out will:-

- (a) ensure the future long terms usage of the facility by a wide range of community organisations.
- (b) not create a situation where the voluntary sector led halls are in competition with Council facilities.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

The Director of Finance, Director of Law & Administration have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

A B Watson  
Chief Executive

19 March 1998

**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 upon to any material extent in preparing this report.

