

ANGUS COUNCIL

**SOCIAL POLICY SUB COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES
COMMITTEE.....(28 APRIL 1998)**

SOCIAL INCLUSION - NEXT STEPS

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

ABSTRACT

This report sets out some initial proposals for taking forward social inclusion as a corporate priority within Angus pending the outcome of the Government's Consultation Exercise on Social Exclusion in Scotland.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended

- i) that the social inclusion policy of Angus Council is taken forward by the issuing of relevant information to Chief Officers with the request that each departmental development plan for 1998/99 addresses this issue as a corporate priority.
- ii) That a matrix for social inclusion is developed as a first step towards the creation of an Angus Citizens Charter and social inclusion action plan.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Social Policy Sub Committee at its meeting on 10 March 1998 approved a report by the Director of Social Work and Chief Executive's Department outlining an Angus approach to social inclusion and containing a draft response to the Scottish Office consultation paper 'Social Exclusion'.

The outcome of the Government's consultation exercise is awaited and of particular interest will be to what extent the suggested strong partnership role for local government will be taken on board. Angus Council has identified social inclusion as a corporate priority within the strategy document 'Angus Towards The Millennium'. In particular the Council is committed to the preparation of an Angus Citizens Charter aimed at developing equal opportunities through a corporate social inclusion policy focusing on eg health and social welfare, leisure and recreation, education, cultural activities, housing and income maintenance. It has also been agreed that the Council's

corporate priorities should be reflected in the departmental development plans for 1998/99.

3 PROPOSAL

It is proposed that two initiatives could be taken forward at this time. The first is to circulate relevant material relating to the development of the Council's policy on social inclusion to each Chief Officer and request that this is reflected in the development plan of each department for 1998/99 in terms of some specific proposals within relevant service areas. The second initiative would be the construction of a social inclusion matrix similar to the Tayside health promotion matrix constructed by Dr Zelda Mathewson of Tayside Health Board which would identify vulnerable groups, activities from which they are at risk of being excluded and areas where the exclusion would be experienced.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 CONSULTATION

All Chief Officers have received a copy of this report for their interest and consideration.

(22 April 1998)

A B Watson
Chief Executive

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 the above report.