

ANGUS COUNCIL

Housing Committee - 26 February 2004

HOUSING ACT IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING - HOMELESSNESS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval for the proposed local outcome agreement for funding to implement the homelessness strategy.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- (i) note the award of continued funding to implement homelessness strategies,
- (ii) approve the proposed local outcome agreement, and
- (iii) in the context of Community Planning, refer this report to the joint Health, Safe and Caring Communities Partnership, for its interest.

2. BACKGROUND

Ministers approved funding over the period 2001-2004 (£3/£12/£12 million) to help local authorities in their implementation of additional homeless duties imposed by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and the recommendations of the Homelessness Task Force's final report. A further allocation of £ has been made for each of the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 to implement homelessness strategies

Local Authorities are required to submit Local Outcome agreements to acknowledge the formal undertaking by the local authority and all participating stakeholders and service providers to implement the Homelessness Strategy.

The milestones contained in the agreement will be used by Communities Scotland to measure effectiveness, success and value for money. The local agreement must also specify measures taken to meet statutory obligations and ensure continuing corporate responsibility, monitoring and evaluation, fit with other strategies and partnership working.

3. FUNDING ALLOCATION

In October 2003, the Scottish Executive confirmed funding to Angus Council for the Implementation of the Homelessness Task Force's recommendations and the recent Homelessness Acts. £596,600 has been allocated for each of the next two years.

4. LOCAL OUTCOME AGREEMENT

The proposed local outcome agreement identifies a range of actions that will assist Angus Council meet its homelessness strategy objectives. Funding will be used to

- review, implement and evaluate the strategy;
- co-ordinate and develop practical assistance to vulnerable people to help establish and maintain tenancies;
- improve the quality of and access to information, advice and assistance;
- provide opportunities for individuals and families affected by homelessness to inform service planning and delivery;
- target information and education to prevent and alleviate youth homelessness;
- increase provision and access to accommodation and support across all tenures;
- enable sustainable resettlement through improved opportunities to access appropriate training and employment;
- make sure that mechanisms to assess and meet needs are effective and efficient;
- facilitate health awareness training;
- promote better health for homeless people.

Services will provide support and assistance to young people, older people, children and families, people leaving institutions, asylum seekers and refugees.

It is intended to use some of the funding to ensure a co-ordinated approach to accessing recycled furniture and other practical assistance to vulnerable homeless people across Angus. Further reports will need to be considered on these projects, with a view to stabilising their financial position over the next two years. This would allow the full range of projects to be taken into account when addressing the first outcome, namely, to ensure the efficient use of resources.

In addition to assisting Angus Council implement the homelessness strategy, there are also strong links with social inclusion and waste recycling strategies.

The proposed local Outcome Agreement is detailed in [Appendix 1](#)

5. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The Scottish Executive expects local authorities to demonstrate effective arrangement for monitoring and evaluating progress.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Continued funding for the local outcome agreement will be provided through the allocation, RSI allocation for 2004-2005 within an enhanced Revenue Support Grant, Supporting People Grant, Furnished Tenancies Grant and other funding sources, including the Common Good funds, NHS Tayside, Lloyds TSB and other charitable funds to bring added value.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

It is considered that in following the recommendations contained in this report, the Council would not be acting in any way that is incompatible with human rights legislation.

8. CONSULTATION

In preparing this report, there has been consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law and Administration, Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection and the Director of Social Work and Health Liaison.

9. CONCLUSION

The award of continued funding for 2004 to 2006 is to be welcomed. In addition to assisting implement our Homelessness Strategy, the funding will also go towards achieving social inclusion of homeless and other vulnerable people in Angus through developing and improving access to a range of services.

Ron Ashton
Director of Housing

Note:- The following 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:

Report by Director of Housing:

- **RSI Award of Grant 2002-2004, 16 April 2002 - Report No. 402/02**