

ANGUS COUNCIL

Housing Committee - 26TH February 2004

CENTRAL HEATING PROGRAMME – OFFER OF GRANT

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

This report advises members of an offer of grant from Communities Scotland, under the Scottish Executive's Central Heating Programme for 2003-04.

1. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to note the £450,000 allocation for 2003/04 under the Scottish Executive's Central Heating Programme, and note that this money will be used to help upgrade 180 houses in the Council's heating replacement programme, from partial heating to full central heating.

2. BACKGROUND

As part of the Scottish Executive's long-term objectives of alleviating fuel poverty, Communities Scotland administers 'The Central Heating Programme'. In 2003/04 Ministers have made the sum of £2.618 million available, to help Scottish local authorities upgrade partial heating systems to full central heating.

Members will be aware that Angus Council currently has a bulk heating installation programme underway, to upgrade all remaining partially heated council houses to full central heating by March 2007, so procedures are already in place to utilise a grant allocation. It was because of this, that during discussions in December and January, officers were able to satisfy Communities Scotland, that a large number of properties could be upgraded within a limited time-frame, and could therefore utilise a relatively high proportion of this year's fund.

3. CENTRAL HEATING PROGRAMME GRANT 2003/04

On the 5th February it was confirmed that the offer of grant for Angus Council for 2003/04 is to be £450,000.

This is to be used to help upgrade approximately 180 council houses – the grant will pay a maximum £2500 per property – and is to be utilised by the end of March 2004.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The grant allocation will finance capital expenditure in the financial year 2003/04. The benefits of the grant will accrue through less borrowing with favourable consequences for future borrowing / expenditure under the prudential code.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications resulting from this report

6 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Law & Administration, and Director of Property Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

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.

Angus Council Report No.1085/03 Warm Deal Allocation 2003/04 9th October 2003