

ANGUS COUNCIL

Housing Committee – 22 April 2004

OUTCOME OF FUNDING BID – COMMON HOUSING REGISTER

REPORT by DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

This report advises members of the successful outcome of the Common Housing Register funding bid for Angus Council's Housing Department for the period 2004 to 2006.

1. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to

- (i) Note the successful outcome of the bid, that will result in resources amounting to £60,000 being received over the period April 2004- March 2006;
- (ii) Approve the establishment of a Common Housing Register, by April 2006, in partnership with Registered Social Landlords operating in Angus.

2. BACKGROUND

The Scottish Executive have recommended that local authorities should ensure housing applicants have a clear route to access all social housing providers waiting lists, through the establishment of a Common Housing Register. Local Authorities were invited to bid for set up costs for the period 2004/5 and 2005/6. Thereafter, all running costs will need to be met by the organisations participating in the Common Housing Register.

All registered social landlords operate different policies, but they can agree to hold a single list of applicants, known as a Common Housing Register. The applicant submits one application form to anyone of the partnership registered landlords which permits access to all partners waiting lists. This simplifies the application procedure and enhances the choice of housing for applicants.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Scottish Executive are providing start up costs for local authorities, of which Angus Council's maximum bid totalled £60,000. The bid monies will be released in part payments over the period 2004/5 and 2005/6.

These resources cover the initial set up costs and the ongoing revenue costs of operating the Register from April 2006 will need to be met by the partner organisations.

4. CONSULTATION

In preparing this report there has been consultation with the Chief Executive and the Directors of Finance and Law & Administration

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

It is considered that in following the recommendation in this report the Council would not be acting in any way that is incompatible with Human Rights.

6. CONCLUSION

The establishment of a Common Housing Register is an objective contained in the Housing Department service Plan for 2003 to 2007 and is also an objective within the Local Housing Strategy.

The provision of funding to help establish the Register will be of considerable assistance in allowing this objective to be met.

Furthermore, simplifying the access route to social rented housing, coupled with the opportunity to be considered for a wide range of properties, will enhance service provision to applicants seeking this tenure option.

Ron Ashton
Director of Housing

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.