

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

Housing Committee – 15 January 2004

**ROUGH SLEEPER'S INITIATIVE (RSI) AWARD OF GRANT 2004-2005  
PROGRESS OF FURNITURE RECYCLING PROJECT ANGUS**

**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING**

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks -

1. to advise Committee of the award of further funding to Angus Council under the Rough Sleeper's Initiative (RSI) for 2004-2005;
2. to advise of the progress of the Furniture Recycling Project Angus (FRPA) to date;
3. approval for continued funding of the FRPA for the forthcoming financial year.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Members note the award of continued funding under the RSI and the progress of the FRPA to date. In addition, it is recommended that Members approve additional funding for the project in the forthcoming financial year.

**2. BACKGROUND**

As detailed in Report No. 402/02 'RSI Award of Grant 2002-2004', 16 April 2002, the Scottish Executive approved Angus Council's revised RSI bid in January 2003. The funding led to the formation of the Furniture Recycling Project Angus (FRPA). In July 2003, a Development Officer was employed on a short-term contract (to March 2004) to work towards the aims and objectives of a Service Level Agreement negotiated between the Department and the Management Committee of the FRPA.

The aim of the FRPA is to develop coordinated furniture recycling provision on an Angus-wide basis for any person to whom the Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 2 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (as amended) or to any person who requires furniture and household goods that may assist them to establish and sustain accommodation.

**3. ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

In October 2003, the Scottish Executive announced an additional round of RSI funding for the period 2004 to 2005. Angus Council has been awarded £26,000 in the financial year 2004-2005. The allocation for 2004-2005 is within an enhanced Revenue Support Grant.

#### **4. PROGRESS OF THE FURNITURE RECYCLING PROJECT ANGUS**

In terms of the Service Level Agreement, the progress of the FRPA must accord to a series of developmental considerations –

- exploring current furniture provision in Angus and to develop proposals for linking to, and co-ordinating with, existing furniture providers in Angus;
- promoting an awareness of recycling and sustainability;
- identification of the needs of service users and gaps in provision;
- developing partnership arrangements with other locally based providers;
- exploring and submitting proposals for long-term funding;
- to develop and agree a work plan with the RSI steering group.

Despite the Development Officer being in post for less than six months, the Project has developed far in advance of the projected development timescales. This has allowed the Development Officer to explore the operational objectives of the project in advance of the anticipated timescale.

The FRPA are currently negotiating with Economic Development for the lease of appropriate warehouse premises from which the project can operate. In addition, options for the collection and distribution of recycled furniture are currently being explored.

It should be emphasised that the FRPA have sole responsibility for meeting the operational objectives of the project as contained in the service level agreement.

#### **5. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Scottish Executive expects local authorities to incorporate their RSI agreement as an integral part of their homelessness strategy. Ongoing monitoring of RSI funded projects will be carried out to monitor progress towards the social justice milestone that no one should sleep rough.

The Housing Department established an RSI Steering Group, including representatives from the Departments of Finance and Environmental and Consumer Protection to oversee the RSI project and to monitor progress to ensure that the aims and objectives of the project are achieved.

In addition, the aims and objectives of the FRPA are laid down in a Service Level Agreement. Day to day monitoring of the FRPA's progress towards meeting the service specification lies with the Quality Assurance and Compliance Officer (Special Needs).

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Continued funding for the FRPA will be provided through the RSI allocation for 2004-2005 within an enhanced Revenue Support Grant.

## **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 additional funding for 2004 to 2005 is to be welcomed. Continued funding of the Furniture Recycling Project Angus will continue to contribute significantly towards the social justice milestone that no one should have to sleep rough in Scotland.

In addition, it will continue to promote the social inclusion of homeless and other vulnerable people in Angus by promoting access to good quality, recycled household goods and furniture.

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**