

ANGUS COUNCIL

Housing Committee - 3 June 2004

ANGUS FURNITURE RECYCLING PROJECTS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

The report seeks approval for proposals to fund local furniture recycling projects.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- (i) agree the award of Homelessness Task Force grant funding to promote co-ordinated furniture recycling throughout Angus.

2. BACKGROUND

The Housing Committee at its meeting on the 26 February 2004 (Report 227/04) approved Angus Council's Local Outcome Agreement in terms of the grant allocated to local authorities by the Scottish Executive to implement homelessness strategies. A significant proportion of the funding (£88,292) was to be allocated to ensuring a coordinated approach to accessing recycled furniture and other practical help to vulnerable homeless people across Angus.

Members will recall that a further report was required to first stabilise financial position of the existing projects over the next two years and to allow more coherent service delivery to emerge that ensured the efficient use of resources.

Three charities involved in recycling furniture operate throughout Angus.

The Furniture Recycling Project Angus (FRPA) is based in Arbroath. The aim of the FRPA is to develop co-ordinated 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. The Housing Committee at its meeting on the 14 January 2004 approved continued Rough Sleepers Initiative funding of £26,000 in 2004-05 to fund a development officer post for a further year.

The Forfar Resource Store (FRS) is based in Forfar and provides an Angus wide service. The aim of the project is relieve the poverty of persons in Angus who are without the necessary funds to furnish their homes to a minimum standard or clothe themselves. Social Work, the Forfar Common Good Fund and other charitable donations have previously provided funding to this project.

The Montrose Area Furniture Recycling and Distribution (MAFRAD) is based in Montrose and provides a service in Montrose and surrounding area. The principal aim is to allow residents to furnish their homes to an appropriate and acceptable standard

and in doing so, encourage community involvement in the collection and redistribution of items of furniture. Funding to date has been from donations.

3. PROPOSED SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

It is intended to enter into Service Level Agreements with the three projects for the period 2004-05 with an option to extend the agreements for a further year.

The Homelessness Strategies Implementation grant and Waste Strategy Grant will be allocated to the projects to develop coordinated recycling in Angus for service users for whom the Authority has an obligation under the homeless legislation, to promote the Authorities duty of social care and to promote environmental waste management.

A condition of the funding is that the three projects enter into a partnership agreement by October 2004 to develop coordinated furniture provision, sharing skills and experience, developing common systems for access, referral, data collection and quality standards for recycled furniture and household goods as defined by the Furniture Reuse Network National Standards System 2002.

The Service Level Agreement with FRPA will include a development remit to provide a range of operational and developmental support, assistance and guidance to the other furniture projects in the Angus area including assistance in developing policies and procedures, funding bids and ICT and administration systems. FRPA will also assist Angus Council assess the extent and pattern of material disadvantage in Angus.

The Service Level agreements will be subject to regular monitoring and evaluation by a Steering Group comprising representatives from the Departments of Housing, Finance and Environmental and Consumer Protection.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding will be contained within current budgets. The allocation for each project for 2004-05 is as follows:

	Furniture Recycling Project Angus	Forfar Resource Store	Montrose Area Furniture Rycycling & Distribution
DEVELOPMENT RSI funding	£26,000	N/A	N/A
SERVICE PROVISION			
Homelessness Strategy grant	£35,655	£25,631	£23,117
Waste strategy grant	£3,100	£26.26 per ton for recycled goods	£3,100

Should Angus Council take up the option of extending the Service Level Agreement for another year, it is envisaged that funding at the current level will continue in 2005-06, subject to evaluation. The Scottish Executive has made no announcement on future funding for RSI projects. A further report will be required in due course to consider continued funding of the FRPA development worker post for 2005-06.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. CONCLUSION

The blueprint for future recycling projects across Angus should focus on pooling resources where appropriate to benefit from economies of scale and provide best value. In addition to helping achieve many of Angus Homelessness Strategy objectives, coordinated service delivery will also meet Local Agenda 21 Strategy and the Waste Recycling Strategy priorities. It is intended that the projects retain their individual identity but work closely together to make sure that resources are used effectively and efficiently.

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:

Reports by Director of Housing:

- ROUGH SLEEPER'S INITIATIVE (RSI) AWARD OF GRANT 2004-2005
PROGRESS OF FURNITURE RECYCLING PROJECT ANGUS - Report No. 51/04
- HOUSING ACT IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING - HOMELESSNESS - Report No. 227/04