

ANGUS COUNCIL

Housing Committee – 26 August 2004

Publication of Revised Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008

REPORT by DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

This report seeks committee approval for the revised Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008. The strategy was revised in response to comments from the Scottish Executive Homelessness Monitoring Group, who have now approved the revised strategy.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that members:

- i) approve the revised Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008,
- ii) remit the Director of Housing to publish the Strategy document for public distribution and on the Council's intranet and web-site and,
- iii) in the context of Community Planning, refer this report and the revised Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008 to the joint Health, Safe and Caring Communities Partnership, for its interest.

2. BACKGROUND

The Angus Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008 was approved by committee in April 2003. Since then, significant progress has been made in implementing the Strategy. A report presenting a review of progress and updated action plan was approved by committee in April 2004 (429/04).

Although implementation of the Strategy Action Plan has continued since April 2003, publication of the Strategy itself was delayed pending assessment by the Scottish Executive Homelessness Monitoring Group.

In June 2003 the Monitoring Group made a number of recommendations for strengthening the strategy. These recommendations included:

- Making the endorsement of partners more explicit
- Identifying specific actions to meet the 2012 target of abolishing the “priority need” category
- Demonstrating a clearer focus on preventative measures
- Making the “crisis response system” more explicit
- Setting specific targets in relation to Housing Benefit administration and the elimination of the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless households.

On the basis of the Monitoring Group's assessment, a number of sections of the Strategy were revised and resubmitted to the Scottish Executive in November 2003 for final approval.

In July 2004 the Scottish Executive notified Angus Council that the revised strategy had now been approved.

3. STRATEGY PUBLICATION

In April 2003, members approved a recommendation to "remit the Director of Housing to publish the Strategy document for public distribution and on the Council's intranet and web-site" (399/03). However, publication of the Strategy was delayed at that time in order to allow the Strategy to be revised in the light of the Monitoring Group's recommendations.

It is now proposed to publish the Strategy, in its revised form. However, as the revisions made have been substantial, committee is asked to formally approve the revised Strategy before publication.

4. CONTENTS

There are two parts to the strategy documentation. A copy of both parts is available in the members lounge.

The [first part](#) contains the revised main text of the Strategy. This part also contains the Action Plan 2003-08. Members should note that the action plan, agreed by committee in April 2003, remains unchanged.

The [second part](#) contains a range of supporting documentation. This includes the following subsidiary strategies:

- Information and Advice Strategy
- Youth Homelessness Strategy
- Consultation Strategy
- Temporary Homeless Accommodation and Support Strategy

These subsidiary strategies were included in the version of the Homelessness strategy approved by committee in April 2003 (339/03), with the exception of the Temporary Homeless Accommodation and Support Strategy which was approved by committee in August 2003 (877/03).

It is proposed that publication will coincide with the publication of the Local Housing Strategy.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs of publication will be met from Housing Act Implementation Funding (Homelessness) and are included in the Local Outcome Agreement for 2003-04.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

7. CONSULTATION

The following agencies have been consulted and have contributed to the revised Angus Homelessness Strategy 2003-08 as members of Strategy Co-ordinating Group:

Angus Council

Chief Executive's Department	Community Education Service
Education Department	Finance Department
Joint Health Improvement Team	Social Work & Health Department

Other Agencies

Abbeytext	Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations
Angus CAB	Angus College
Angus Housing Association	Angus Independent Advocacy
Angus LHCC	Angus Mental Health Association
Angus Money Advice Service	Angus Women's Aid
Arbroath Six Circle Project	Augment
Barnardos	Communities Scotland
Dundee Cyrenians	Furniture Recycling Project Angus
Gowrie Care Trust	Hillcrest Housing Association
JobcentrePlus	Rowan Alba Association
SAMH	Shelter
Starter Packs Angus	Rep from St Andrew's Church, Arbroath

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law and Administration, Director of Education, and the Director of Social Work and Health have been consulted in preparing this report.

8. CONCLUSION

The Angus Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008 has been revised to take account of the recommendations of the Homelessness Monitoring Group. Approval for the revised Strategy was received from the Scottish Executive in July 2004. It is intended that the revised Strategy be published at the same time as the Local Housing Strategy.

Ron Ashton
Director of Housing

Note:- the following background papers, as defined by Section 50 D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to a material extent in preparing this report:

Housing Committee Report no. 339/03, April 2003 – Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008.

Housing Committee Report no. 877/03, August 2003 – Temporary Homeless Accommodation and Support Strategy 2003-2008.

Housing Committee Report no. 429/04, April 2004 – Review of the Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008.