

ANGUS COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE - 26 August 2004

HOUSING ACT IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING - HOMELESSNESS
LOCAL OUTCOME AGREEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT by DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

This report advises members on the progress to date in achieving the targets and outcomes agreed with the Scottish Executive, for Housing Scotland Act Implementation funding for homelessness duties.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Housing Committee:

- i. notes the progress to date and,
- ii. in the context of Community Planning, refer this report to the joint Health, Safe and Caring Communities Partnership, for its interest.

2. BACKGROUND

Ministers approved funding over the period 2001-2004 (£3/£12/£12 million) to help local authorities implement additional homeless duties imposed by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Homelessness Task Force Final Report. Funding was subject to Local Outcome Agreements with the Scottish Executive.

Housing Committee approved specific outcomes for the two-year period 2002-04, on 16 February 2002.

Angus Council was allocated a total of £634,500 for financial year 2003-04. Offers of grant were received and accepted for £330,000, £65,000 and, £239,500 in January 2002, August 2002 and, January 2003 respectively.

Following an evaluation of progress in 2002-03, revised outcomes were submitted to Communities Scotland in October 2003. The objective priorities remained the same but some of the specific outcomes were refined to take account of other factors and new initiatives influencing strategy implementation.

3. OUTCOME AGREEMENT PROGRESS

A draft progress report to Communities Scotland was issued and the total grant allocation of £634,500 has been received.

Where there has not been full spend in the financial year 2003-04, a financial commitment has been made in most cases.

There is some variation between the actual or committed spend and the estimated budget costs, identified at the beginning of 2003 against specific outcomes. The

under spend on implementing the national standards for information and advice and related staff training costs, the upgrading of communal facilities and the provision of furnished tenancies, which have now been funded in terms of the Furnished Tenancies Grant has been reallocated to fund central support costs, which had previously been excluded from budget estimates

Following on from the progress last year which was reported to the Housing Committee in June 2003, the funding has allowed Angus Council to continue developing effective measures to tackle homelessness in partnership with a range of agencies.

A proportion of the grant has continued to fund staff to implement the homelessness strategy. A Strategy Review was completed and reported to the Housing Committee in April 2004. Committee also approved a strategy for Temporary Accommodation and Support Services in August 2003. Development work has continued and significant progress has been made in developing Training, Education and Information and Advice services for young people.

The provision of good quality information and advice can make a significant impact in preventing and alleviating homelessness. Funding to train and support staff to comply with the National Standards for Information and Advice has resulted in staff at the Carnoustie ACCESS Office and all Special Needs Officers gaining accreditation.

Significant progress has been made in partnership with Hillcrest Housing Association to provide good quality temporary accommodation and support services for homeless people in Arbroath and Forfar.

Communal facilities have been upgraded in the Homeless Persons Unit in Montrose and new reception and communal facilities have been provided in the Young Persons Homeless Unit in Arbroath.

Funding to the Angus LHCC to research the health needs of homeless people and bring forward proposals for interagency training and developing services will further the prevention and alleviation of homelessness. A final report from the Angus LHCC is imminent.

Service level agreements are in place with a range of voluntary sector agencies to provide practical assistance to homeless people to set up tenancies, provide independent information and advice and involve service users in service planning and delivery.

Appendix 1 details the local outcome agreement for 2003-04, progress against each target and budget spend.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Angus Council arising from this report. The total expenditure amounts to £794,561. Implementation funding for 2003-2004 (£634,500) has been awarded by the Scottish Executive and any additional expenditure has been contained within this grant or met from the under spend carried forward from the previous year (£160,061)

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

6. CONSULTATION

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

7. CONCLUSION

Angus Council has achieved the priority objectives and met most of specific targets agreed with the Scottish Executive. Where slippage has occurred, significant progress has been made towards meeting these targets.

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. 231/02, February 2002 - Housing Act Implementation Funding - Homelessness;

**HOUSING SCOTLAND ACT 2001
FUNDING TO ASSIST IMPLEMENTATION OF HOMELESSNESS STRATEGIES**

**ANGUS COUNCIL - SPECIFIC OUTCOMES 2003-04
PROGRESS REPORT**

The following table details progress with achieving agreed outcomes and targets, and the associated spend. The table is structured to reflect the 2 streams of funding: the grant to implement new duties imposed on local authorities (Housing Act) £395,000 and the grant to implement the Homelessness Task Force Final Report – £239,500.

1. HOUSING ACT : £395,000

1.1 PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY

OUTCOME	TARGET	COMPLETION DATE	GRANT APPORTIONMENT 2003-04 + CF 01-03	ACTUAL SPEND	COMMITTED SPEND	BALANCE	C/F 04-05	PROGRESS 2003-04
To develop a framework for ongoing assessment of needs and strategy review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff in post Associated costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £100,000 -£3,023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £89,528 £67,938 		{-£60,489		Staff in post – ongoing. Note spend includes central support costs attributable to staff which had not previously been included in budget estimates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme of multi-agency Strategy Co-ordinating and Implementation meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £200 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0 		Various meeting held on regular and one off basis– project workers forum, development day, co-ordinating group meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency / Service User Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1,000 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0 		Augment commissioned – Outcome agreement in place
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3,000 		Awaiting final comments on resubmitted strategy from Monitoring Group, prior to publication.
To Improve Range of Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Furniture project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apr 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £6,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £6,000 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0 		Service Level Agreement signed & funding given to Starter Packs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenancy Training Initiative / health & vulnerability research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sep 2002 / Apr 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £5,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £5,000 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0 		ESF bid by Angus College approved – scheduled to commence Aug 04
To fund Angus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 04 	£65,000	£65,000				Final draft of LHCC report out for

OUTCOME	TARGET	COMPLETION DATE	GRANT APPORTIONMENT 2003-04 + CF 01-03	ACTUAL SPEND	COMMITTED SPEND	BALANCE	C/F 04-05	PROGRESS 2003-04
LHCC to implement Health & Homelessness plan	baseline in terms of the health needs, identify training and development needs of staff and address the gaps in service. Final report on findings							consultation
TOTAL	•		£177,177	£234,666	£3,000	-£60,488	£3,000	

1.2 PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: INCREASE PROVISION OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

OUTCOME	TARGET	COMPLETION DATE	GRANT APPORTIONMENT 2003-04 + CF 01-03	ACTUAL SPEND	COMMITTED SPEND	BALANCE	C/F 04-05	PROGRESS 2003-04
To provide a range of good quality temporary accommodation	• Consultants report on access to housing for young people	• Dec 03	£19,358	£15,651		£3,707		Final draft currently with Senior Management Team for approval. Scheduled to go to Committee in June 2004.
	• Upgraded reception and communal facilities at Young Persons Homeless Persons Unit	• Sep 2003	£85,000		£85,000		£85,000	Slippage - Currently on site with a completion date –18 th July 2004

OUTCOME	TARGET	COMPLETION	GRANT APPORTIONMENT 2003-04 + CF 01-03	ACTUAL SPEND	COMMITTED SPEND	BALANCE	C/F 04-05	PROGRESS 2003-04
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded reception, accommodation and communal facilities in other homeless persons units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 2004 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £70,372 		£22,948	£52,052	£22,948	Completed upgrade of facilities in Montrose HPU
To provide safe and secure environments for homeless people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Persons Accommodation Co-ordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In post – Sept 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £15,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £24,316 		-£9,316		Achieved. Note costs include central support costs not previously included in budget estimates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rent Guarantee Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3,000 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3,000 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3,000 	Discussions ongoing with Dundee Cyrenians to commission service – Committee approval sought Aug 04
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued deficit funding for Tenancy Support Officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £50,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £79,558 		-£29,558		Ongoing. Note costs include central support costs not previously included in budget estimates
Contingencies			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2,776 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2,776 		
TOTAL			£250,134	£119,526	£110,948	£19,661	£110,948	

1.3 INCREASED/IMPROVED ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE/INFORMATION SERVICES

OUTCOME	TARGET	COMPLETION	GRANT APPORTIONMENT 03-04 + CF 01-03	ACTUAL SPEND	COMMITTED SPEND	BALANCE	CARRY FORWARD 04-05	PROGRESS 2003-04
One door approach to the provision of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of National Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec 2002 	£23,850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £12,966 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £10,844 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1x Access office accredited: Type 1; Rolling programme in

OUTCOME	TARGET	COMPLETION	GRANT APPORTIONMENT 03-04 + CF 01-03	ACTUAL SPEND	COMMITTED SPEND	BALANCE	CARRY FORWARD 04-05	PROGRESS 2003-04
Information and advice throughout Angus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directory / Information Leaflets published Staff / interagency training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 2003 May 03 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2,400 £2,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2,268 £1,187 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £132 £813 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> place across other offices; 3xSpecial Needs Offi'rs accredited Type 2. Range of information leaflets published / acquired Assorted courses attended by individual staff members
Debt counselling service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLA with CAB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec 02 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £10,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £10,000 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Level Agreement signed
Total			£38,250	£26,421	£0	£11,829	£0	

2. HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE: £239,000

2.1 PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: INCREASE PROVISION OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

OUTCOME	TARGET	COMPLETION	GRANT APPORTIONMENT 03-04 + CF 01-03	ACTUAL SPEND	COMMITTED SPEND	BALANCE	CARRY FORWARD 04-05	PROGRESS 2003-04
To increase the range of temporary accommodation and support for vulnerable homeless people in Forfar & Arbroath in partnership with Hillcrest HA / Gowrie Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Costs Site acquisition contribution (Forfar) Development costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 03 Spring 05 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £82,300 £7,200 £210,500 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £82,300 £7,200 £210,500 	Development Agreement between the provider (Hillcrest Housing Association (Gowrie Care)) / Angus Council / Communities Scotland (Scottish Ministers) due for signing – delayed due to a number of factors, including attempts to seek confirmation from Scottish Executive over revenue Funding

OUTCOME	TARGET	COMPLETION	GRANT APPORTIONMENT 03-04 + CF 01-03	ACTUAL SPEND	COMMITTED SPEND	BALANCE	CARRY FORWARD 04-05	PROGRESS 2003-04
providing a range of furniture packages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 furnished units for homeless people or people vulnerable to homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 03 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £29,000 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £29,000 		Superseded by Furniture grant
TOTAL			£239,500	£0	£300,000	£29,000	£300,000	

Grant Allocation 2003-04: £634,500

Carry forward 02-03: £160,061

Total funding: £794,561

Total Spend: £380,613

Carry Forward 2004-05: £413,94