

ANGUS COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE – 26 AUGUST 2004

ANGUS LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2004 - 2009

REPORT by DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

This report provides the outcome of the assessment, recently completed by Communities Scotland, in relation to the Angus Local Housing Strategy 2004 – 2009.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- (i) Note the assessment made by Communities Scotland;
- (ii) Note the provisional date for the formal launch of the Angus Local Housing Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

The background to the Angus Local Housing Strategy is set out in the reports 364/04 to the Strategic Policy Committee and reports 16/02 and 1088/03 to Housing Committee. To summarise, the Scottish Executive, outlined their fundamental national housing requirements as:

- (i) Delivering the new Scottish Social Housing Standard, particularly through community ownership;
- (ii) Tackling homelessness;
- (iii) Eradicating fuel poverty in Scotland;
- (iv) Reducing the number of houses below the Tolerable Standard;
- (v) Reducing the number of households with poor energy efficiency.

Taking these national priorities and local issues into account, the Strategy maps out the course between the current operation of the housing system and how Angus Council, with partners, wants the housing system to operate over a five-year period.

3. ANGUS LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY – ASSESSMENT

The Angus Local Housing Strategy 2004-2009 and its supporting appendices were submitted to Communities Scotland in April 2004 for assessment. The assessment was undertaken by the Communities Scotland Area Planning Team in Dundee and was also fed through a process of national calibration to ensure consistency in marking. Elements

of the assessment have been further supported by comments from the Fuel Poverty Team in the Scottish Executive and the Scottish House Condition Survey Team. The assessment carried seven possible grades, which are detailed in the table below

ASSESSMENT	DESCRIPTION
Outstanding	Criterion addressed fully in an exceptional way, an exemplar to others
Excellent	Criterion met fully and very well in all aspects; an example of good practice
Very good	Criterion met fully and some key aspects addressed very well
Good	Criterion met to a large extent and a clear approach to addressing outstanding issues/gaps in place
Good in parts	Criterion met to some extent although some significant gaps or aspects not addressed
Some significant weaknesses	Criterion not met but recognised and evidence that progress likely to be made in the near future
Generally	Criterion not met with no evidence that likely to be met in the near future

The Angus Local Housing Strategy has achieved an overall scored rating of “Good”. In order to be eligible for the transfer of the management of development funding (TMDF) an overall assessment of “good” was required. The score has been reported to the Minister for Communities, by Communities Scotland, accompanied by a brief summary of the key strengths of the strategy.

The assessment process measured the quality of the Local Housing Strategy using 107 criteria detailed across seven elements. The grade for each of the seven elements is detailed in the table below. Attached to this report is [Appendix 1](#), Communities Scotland’s key findings in relation to the Angus Local Housing Strategy.

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
1. Strategy presentation & communication	Very good
2. Partnership working & strategy process	Very good
3. Wider priorities & links with other plans & strategies	Good
4. Market analysis, needs assessment & problem identification	Good
5. Priorities, options & actions	Good
6. Resourcing	Good
7. Monitoring & evaluation	Good
Overall assessment	Good

3. FORMAL LAUNCH

Although the Local Housing Strategy is now available to members of the public in draft form, it is intended to hold a formal launch on 18 October 2004. This will be an

opportunity to publicise the strategy, highlighting the housing issues in Angus and to recognise the contribution made by members of the Housing Forum. Details of the launch have not been finalised but members will be kept informed.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, implementing the Strategy will have significant financial implications and further reports will be submitted to Committee as required.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct human rights implications arising from this report.

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive and Directors of Finance, Law & Administration, Planning & Transport, Property Services, Roads and Social Work & Health Liaison have all been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8. CONCLUSION

The Local Housing Strategy spells out Angus Council's housing priorities and is an opportunity to influence improvements in all housing in Angus, The "good" assessment of the Angus Local Housing Strategy is welcomed and recognises the Council's vision for housing over the next five years. However it is recognised the production of the strategy is only the first step. Delivering the actions contained in the Implementation Plan will ultimately measure the success and effectiveness of the Local Housing Strategy and will require collaborative working between all Council departments and partner agencies.

RON ASHTON
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

Note: In preparing this report reference was made to the Committee Reports 16/02 and 1088/03 and "Report submitted regarding the progression of the LHS" submitted to the Housing Department's Senior Management Team during 2003.

No other 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 upon to any material extent in preparing this report.