Abstract: This Report outlines the uptake of European grants by Angus Council in the financial year 2003-04.

1 RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this Report and the annual uptake of EU funding by Angus Council.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Angus Council’s European Services Team was formed in 1996 and since then has been increasingly pro-active in promoting the funding opportunities from European Programmes to Council departments.

2.2 In 2002 the Team’s remit was expanded to incorporate all external funding (Lottery, Trusts, etc.) and to widen the advice and support provided to voluntary and community organisations as well. However European funding continues to play an important role of the External Funding Section.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The current Structural Fund Programmes run from 2000-2006. Due to delays in approval however, the first rounds of applications for the Scottish Objectives Programme (European Social Fund – ESF) and East of Scotland Objective 2 Programme (European Regional Development Fund – ERDF) were opened in September 2000 and February 2001 respectively. The Rural Tayside and Cairngorms Leader+ Programmes commenced in 2002.

3.2 In 2003/04, 12 projects were approved securing grant income of £1,117,942. In addition, Angus Council provided match funding to 6 projects which secured £693,555 of grant income.

3.3 In total therefore from September 2000 to date, 48 projects have been submitted with the amount approved amounting to £3,102,934. A further 18 projects have received grants with Angus Council providing match funding bringing the total amount approved in Angus to £4,831,955.

3.4 A full list of projects approved to date is attached in Appendix 1.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The additional income generated by EU monies allows Angus Council to implement a wide range of innovative and additional activities across Angus.
5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Directors of Law and Administration and Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 EU funding has played a vital role in generating additional income to Angus Council and Angus as a whole. It is important to maximise opportunities up to the end of 2006.

NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

DV/AS/MM

A B Watson OBE
Chief Executive

4 February 2004