

ANGUS COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE – 26 FEBRUARY 2009

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

PROMOTING APPRENTICESHIPS – ARBROATH

Abstract: This report outlines the potential for Angus Council to support the promotion of apprenticeships in the construction sector in Arbroath, in partnership with Angus College, local Registered Social Landlords, through Wider Role Funding and the Arbroath and Cliffrburn Partnerships.

1 RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree:

- i) That this initiative is explored further and detailed reports are brought for Committee consideration.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Cliffrburn Partnership is keen to work within the Arbroath Partnership, "*Arbroath Ahead*" to promote Arbroath with a particular focus on supporting and promoting opportunities within and for the people of Cliffrburn and Hayshead. In conjunction with Angus College there is an emerging concern that the current slow down in the house building sector is creating a potential for the loss of current and future skills required to support the bounce back to previous production levels. Angus College and the Cliffrburn Partnership are proposing to look at how Angus Council and the major Registered Social Landlords, operational in Angus, could identify training opportunities for apprentices in the absence of new local construction sites being progressed.

3 THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE

3.1 The proposal, which is at exploratory stage, would require the Council and the RSLs to identify properties which could be used on which the apprentices could be trained to develop their construction skills whilst at the same time redeveloping properties and returning them to a condition, to the required Council and RSL standards, which would see them brought into use and rented housing stock.

3.2 Next Steps

If Members approve this report and its direction, the next steps would be for the Council to identify possible redevelopment opportunities and to negotiate with Angus College the details of the initiative including ensuring that all the required safeguards are in place for all parties.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no immediate financial implications for the Council arising directly from the information contained within this report. If Members agree to progress this work the Council's financial contribution will be no more than the amount that would have been spent on repairing or improving properties to bring them back into use had the Council been doing the work itself.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no human rights implications for the Council arising directly from the information contained within this reports.

6 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

6.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Single Outcome Agreement for Angus –

- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society;
- We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk;
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of the report.

8 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The issues dealt within this report have been subject of consideration from the equalities perspective. No equalities impact assessment is required.

9 CONCLUSION

9.1 Angus Council has made considerable efforts to support the construction sector through the current down turn, but is also mindful of the need to lay the foundations for a successful bounce back to production to meet the needs of those seeking high quality housing in Angus. This programme has the potential to support apprenticeships, showcase the skills of those living and working in our communities and ensure that we are well placed to promote a skilled and trained workforce capable of supporting the future Angus economy.

**RON ASHTON
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

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

Hsg/NS/AMcK