

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE – 20 AUGUST 2009**

**SUBJECT: COUNCIL HOUSE SALES**

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

**ABSTRACT**

This report presents details of Council House Sales for the first quarter of 2009/10.

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council is obliged in terms of relevant legislation to sell its housing stock to tenants who wish to buy the property they rent from the Council. Tenants wishing to purchase their property can qualify for a discount, with the amount of discount being dependent on the length of occupancy prior to purchase.
- 2.2 Receipts from the sale of Council Housing Stock, other assets and associated miscellaneous receipts are utilised in the financing of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme. This report primarily provides members with the detailed position in respect of Council House sales, however some additional details regarding total HRA capital receipts is provided for members' information.
- 2.3 The Council House Right to Buy Scheme was first introduced by the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987. The scheme was subsequently modernised by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 which introduced changes to the scheme with effect from 30 September 2002. The main points of the scheme as it now stands are:
- Where tenancies commenced before 30 September 2002 the tenant can apply under the original Right to Buy scheme as their rights are preserved. The tenant in such cases will qualify for a discount on valuation of 30% for a house or 40% for a flat. For each year beyond the initial 2 year tenancy a further discount of 1% per house or 2% per flat would be awarded but discount is capped at 60% per house and 70% per flat.
  - Where tenancies commence on or after 30 September 2002 the tenant can apply under the modernised Right to Buy scheme and is normally required to have at least 5 years continuous tenancy. The tenant would then qualify for a discount on valuation of 20% up to a maximum of £15,000. For each year beyond the initial 5 year tenancy period an additional discount of 1% per year up to a maximum of 35% is allowed, again up to a maximum of £15,000. There is no longer a discount distinction between houses and flats.

### 3 RECEIPTS FROM COUNCIL HOUSE SALES

- 3.1 [Appendix 1](#) (Column 7) summarises receipts from Council House Sales under the preserved Right to Buy scheme for the period from 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009. Appendix 1 (Column 10) is the overall cumulative sales position to 30 June 2009 since the Council House Right To Buy provision was introduced. It should be noted that the sales up to 31 March 1996 relate only to the former Angus District Council housing stock; details relating to former Dundee stock in the area taken over by Angus Council are not available. [Appendix 1A](#) provides the same information in respect of the modernised scheme.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 also details a summary of overall HRA Capital Receipts position for the 2009/10 financial year to date.
- 3.3 A summary of capital receipts from Council House Sales for the period 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009 is shown in Table 1 below. Appendices 1 and 1A provide further information in respect of the number of sales and market valuations within each burgh of Angus.

**Table 1**

	<b>Market Valuation (£)</b>	<b>Selling Price (£)</b>	<b>Average Discount</b>
Original Scheme	65,000	26,000	60.0%
Modernised Scheme	145,000	118,000	18.6%
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>144,000</b>	<b>31.4%</b>

- 3.4 The cumulative market values and actual sales of Council houses up to 30 June 2009 are summarised in Table 2 below.

**Table 2**

	<b>Market Valuation (£)</b>	<b>Selling Price (£)</b>	<b>Average Discount</b>
Original Scheme	199,892,950	99,304,836	50.3%
Modernised Scheme	2,694,500	2,090,655	22.4%
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>202,587,450</b>	<b>101,395,491</b>	<b>50.0%</b>

- 3.5 [Appendices 2](#) and [2A](#) set out details of Council House sales by town and address for the period from 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009.
- 3.6 [Appendix 3](#) provides details of the remaining Housing stock eligible for sale under the Right to Buy scheme on a burgh basis.

### 4 OTHER CAPITAL RECEIPTS

- 4.1 As noted at paragraph 2.2 above, the Housing Revenue Account also receives income from the sale of other assets and associated miscellaneous receipts. A summary of the overall HRA capital receipts position is therefore included at the bottom of Appendix 1 and the key information from this summary is shown in Table 3 below.

### 5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is noted at 2.2 above, that the capital programme utilises the capital receipts arising mainly from the sale of Council Houses.

- 5.2 A summary of the total HRA capital receipts for the period 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009 is detailed in Table 3 below.

**Table 3**

<b>Receipt Type</b>	<b>Actual £</b>	<b>Budget £</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>
House Sales	144,000	1,480,000	576,000
Other Sales (Land)	252,800	0	252,800
Miscellaneous Receipts/Grants	-	-	-
<b>Total Capital Receipts</b>	<b>396,800</b>	<b>1,480,000</b>	<b>828,800</b>

- 5.3 If the level of house sales achieved in the first quarter continued as a trend for the remainder of the financial year, overall capital receipts would be approximately £650,000 below the original assumption (£1,480,000) included in the estimated resources to finance the Housing Capital Programme for 2009/10.
- 5.4 It is however too early in the financial year to predict with any accuracy what the final overall receipts position will be and as reported to members in the Housing Capital and Planned Maintenance Report also on this agenda (Report 545/09 refers), any consequent requirement to review the level and / or the funding of the Housing Capital Programme will be informed by work undertaken by external consultants developing a longer term business plan for housing. An update report in this regard (Report 546/09 refers) is also presented to members on this agenda.
- 5.5 The position in respect of Council House Sales will be closely monitored throughout the year and further reports will be brought forward during the year highlighting the position as at the end of each quarter.

## **6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

## **7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, the Head of Law and Administration, the Director of Neighbourhood Services, the Head of Housing and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 This report details the actual Council house sales achieved for the period from 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009. The actual total Council House Sales for the period amount to £144,000.
- 9.2 This report also notes for information that other receipts totalling £252,800 (other asset sales) have been received during 2009/10, bringing the total overall capital receipts for the period to 30 June 2009 to £396,800.

**Colin McMahon**  
**Director of Corporate Services**

**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.

Finance/IL/KL/DW