AGENDA ITEM NO 8
REPORT NO 262/11

ANGUS COUNCIL
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE - 14 APRIL 2011

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT’S INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT FUND
REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

ABSTRACT: This report updates Members on the launch of a Scottish Government’s Innovation and Investment Fund and seeks approval for an Angus Council submission.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

   (i) Notes that the £50 million Scotland wide challenge under the banner of the Innovation and Investment Fund;

   (ii) Agrees that Angus Council submits a bid to the challenge fund;

   (iii) Agrees to delegate responsibility for the development bid to the Director of Neighbourhood Services;

   (iv) Agree that Angus Council seeks partner bids from interested parties capable of delivering within the funding and time constraints associated with this fund;

   (v) Agrees that updates are brought to future meetings of the Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Scottish Government has recently launched a £50 million competitive funding arrangement to allow all suppliers to provide new affordable homes. The Scottish Government intend to divide the £50m among:

   - Council house building (social rent);
   - RSL building (primarily for social rent but can include other elements of affordable housing); and
   - An innovative fund open to all providers (for all forms of affordable housing tenure).

2.2 Subject to sufficient bids meeting the criteria, it is intended that at least £20m is made available for Councils; at least £20m for RSLs; and up to £10m for the innovative fund. The Scottish Government intend to retain flexibility to move money among the 3 streams.

Fund Objectives

- Innovation;
- Collaborative working; and
- Value for money to the Scottish Government.

2.3 Scottish Councils will be able to bid for up to £30,000 per unit with criteria in line with previous bidding exercises. Registered Social Landlords will be bidding for an anticipated £40,000 per unit with details on entry criteria and finding levels for the Innovation Fund (to which anyone can bid) yet to be finalised at the time of writing this report.

2.4 A copy of the Scottish Government’s initial launch paper is appended to this report.

2.5 Further details will be brought to Committee as they emerge.
3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications at this time as a result of the recommendations of this report. Members are asked to note that any bid will be fully costed using the Council’s business model as outlined in Report No. 114/11. No costs other than Officer time have been incurred in seeking to progress this scheme and these have, therefore, been contained within existing Council resources.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

5. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

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

- Good quality housing is available throughout Angus.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 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.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The issues dealt within this report have been subject of consideration from the equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

8. CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Members are asked to note this development. The Council has been successful in the past in these bidding processes and opportunities exist to further local Council house building and the Council hope to submit a further exciting bid and to encourage bids from partners who are capable of meeting the financial and time constraints associated with this Fund.

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/RA/AMcK