1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 The Committee is asked to note the arrangements for this year’s Council House Garden Awards.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The 2011 Garden Awards are again to be judged geographically, that is 7 Burgh areas:- Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Monifieth and Montrose and 3 landward areas:- Arbroath/Carnoustie/Monifieth, Forfar/Kirriemuir and Montrose/Brechin. Each category will have a 1st and 2nd prize winner with added prizes for tenants with disabilities, tubs and planters, sustainable garden, overall winner and the Director’s Special Award, bringing the total number of prizes to 28.

2.2 Local Community Housing Visitors will nominate tenants’ gardens to be judged. This ensures the best gardens in each area are recognised, including the time tenants have devoted to their gardens. The winning tenants are also rewarded for their efforts. Tenants also have the opportunity to nominate themselves or a neighbour using the ACCESSLine.

2.3 A Press Release was issued on 28 June 2011 inviting all Angus Council tenants to make nominations for the 2011 Annual Awards for Council house gardens with the closing date for applications being 8 July 2011. LCP Team staff placed posters in the Forfar and Kirriemuir ACCESS Offices to promote the awards this year.

2.4 Nominations for this year’s Awards were judged by Parks Services Officers during the week commencing 18 July 2011 and photographs of all the winning gardens were taken by Parks staff.

3. PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONIES FOR THE 2011 COUNCIL HOUSE GARDEN AWARDS

3.1 As in previous years, the 1st and 2nd prize winners in each section are invited to attend a prize-giving ceremony where 1st prize winners will be awarded a trophy, £35 universal garden centre voucher (can be used in any garden centre) and a certificate. A £25 universal garden centre voucher and certificate will be awarded to 2nd prize winners.

3.2 This year, the prize-giving for each area will take place at each Community Consultation Roadshow, as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arbroath, Carnoustie and Monifieth</td>
<td>7 September 2011</td>
<td>10.00 am/2.30 pm</td>
<td>Panmure Hotel, Monifieth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forfar and Kirriemuir</td>
<td>24 September 2011</td>
<td>10.00 am/2.30 pm</td>
<td>Kirriemuir Town Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brechin and Montrose</td>
<td>22 October 2011</td>
<td>10.00 am/2.30 pm</td>
<td>Montrose Town Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 The views of our tenants involved in the Tenant Participation Strategy Group supported presentation of the prizes at the Community Consultation Roadshows, as they felt awarding the prizes at a local level could possibly enhance interest in the Garden Awards in future years.

3.4 Elected Members, Senior Neighbourhood Services staff, representatives from the Community Housing Team and Parks Services Officers (who carried out the judging) will be invited to attend and will be advised of the time and venue via an email.
3.5 The Awards and photographs will be covered in the Tenants’ Newsletter entitled “Housing News” later this year. Angus Council’s Public Relations staff will co-ordinate articles and photographs placed in all the Angus local press prior to the prize-giving ceremony.

3.6 The overall Angus wide winners will be presented with their awards at the Neighbourhood Services Committee meeting in October.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The total budget for the Garden Awards is £1,080 and all costs are budgeted for in the Neighbourhood Services Departmental budget.

5. **CONSULTATION**

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

6. **HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

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

7. **CONCLUSION**

7.1 The Annual Garden Awards is seen as a way of encouraging tenants to maintain and take pride in their gardens and improve the general appearance of their community. Tenants are to be commended for their efforts.

**RON ASHTON**
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD 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 this report.

**LCP/NS/RA/BDS**