

## **AGENDA ITEM NO 7**

**REPORT NO 370/13**

### **ANGUS COUNCIL**

#### **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE - 11 JUNE 2013**

#### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO ANGUS COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

#### **REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **ABSTRACT**

This report informs members of the total financial support provided to Angus community councils for the period 1 October 2011 to 31 March 2013.

#### **1 RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee note the contents of this report.

#### **2 BACKGROUND**

On 28 October 2003, the Strategic Policy Committee approved a Policy Statement on the Council's relationship with Angus Community Councils. Incorporated within that policy is a general statement of principle about the Council's relationship with community councils which reads:

*"As part of its commitment to customer/citizen focus, Angus Council is committed to working with community councils for the good of the Angus community and, in pursuit of its corporate and/or service objectives and priorities, Angus Council will work with and support all community councils within Angus."*

With regard to the monitoring of the Policy Statement, it was agreed that the total financial support given to community councils would be reported to committee on an annual basis.

#### **3 FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO ANGUS COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

The financial support provided to community councils during their financial year covering the 18 month period from 1 October 2011 to 31 March 2013 is summarised in the attached Appendix.

Each operational community council receives a grant to cover their administration costs. This amounted to £20,220.00 in total with the exact amount of grant to each community council being determined by population figures. In addition, to improve effective communication, an allowance is available to assist those that wish to communicate electronically, all but one community council were in receipt of this additional allowance, at a cost of £5,400.00.

The adoption of a new Angus Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils in October 2010 altered the financial year of community councils from a September to October financial year to the more common April to March financial year (Committee report 118/10 refers).

In order that Community Councils were not financially disadvantaged nor over burdened in their auditing of accounts, arrangements were put in place for the payment of their grants and the receipt of accounts to move over the course of 18 months to an April to March financial period. This report therefore covers a 18 month period, however, future reporting will be on an annual April to March period in June each year.

The council reimburses community councils for expenses incurred in hiring meeting places where an Angus Council premises does not exist or is not suitable, for the time period above this amounted to £487.50.

As agreed by this committee on 9 September 2008 the council also reimburses community councils the annual registration fee of £35.00 which is required of them as data controllers in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. This is done on production of confirmation of registration with the Information Commissioner's Office. Three reimbursements were made at a cost of £105.00.

Again, as agreed by this committee on 17 March 2009 the council approved a fund of £26,000 to furnish community councils with resources to purchase computer equipment to enable them to carry out their responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner. A further three community councils have taken up this offer at a cost of £3000.00. Sixteen community councils in total have now been helped with this one off grant. Unusually, funds were also provided to a community council for advertising costs relating to a potential election in the sum of £562.00.

Some council services also provide non financial support through, for example, Christmas lighting road closures and use of premises, and this is also quantified in the Appendix.

Others provide other type of "in-kind" support such as Neighbourhood Services who offer free photocopying through the Council's ACCESS Offices which is difficult to quantify in financial terms.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. All financial and in-kind support from Angus Council is met from existing budget resources.

#### **5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

#### **6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The issues contained in this report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

#### **7 CONSULTATION**

The Strategic Directors of Communities, People and Resources, the Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**RICHARD STIFF  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**RS/AMcK/RG**

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 paper.

#### **Appendix**

**Financial Support provided to Angus Community Councils - 1 October 2011 to 31 March 2013**

**Financial Support provided to Angus Community Councils  
1 October 2011 to 31 March 2013**

<b>Financial Support</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b><i>Cash Support:</i></b>	
Administrative Grant	£20,220.00
Electronic Communications Payment	£ 5,400.00
Awards from Angus Council Communities Grants Scheme	£ 7,020.00
Reimbursement of Data-Protection fee	£ 105.00
Reimbursement of Hall lets	£ 487.50
Computer Equipment	£ 3,000.00
Election Costs	£ 562.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£ 36,794.50</b>
<b><i>Non Cash Support:</i></b>	
Use of premises for community council meetings	£ 3,465.75
Christmas lighting switch-on events	£ 1,295.68
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£ 4,761.43</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£41,555.93</b>