

ANGUS COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2013

**GRANT FUNDING TO INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY HEALTH,
SOCIAL CARE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE HUB FOR BRECHIN.**

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report advises of a successful bid for enabling funds to investigate the potential development of a Community Health, Social Care & Emergency Service Hub for Brechin.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee note that a joint application to the East Central Scotland hub, with a number of community planning partners, for funds to enable investigation of the potential development of a Community Health, Social Care and Emergency Service Hub for Brechin has been successful, with £191,577 awarded.

2. BACKGROUND

Accommodation is one of the key cross-themed issues of the Angus Community Planning Partnership, and is included in its Forward Work Programme. An Accommodation Group meets roughly quarterly, with good representation from across partner agencies. An action plan is reviewed at each meeting, and in the last year, the scale of property issues in Brechin has resulted in efforts to explore a joint strategic approach. This timing also fits with the council's timetable of asset management reviews.

Following an initial review of partnership properties, it has become clear that several services are operating from buildings that are not ideally fit for purpose. Discussions have commenced on potential synergies in amalgamating community health, social care and emergency services.

NHS is required to use the Hub Procurement Programme for any significant capital developments, whether working alone or in partnership. The Scottish Government committed £30m of start up capital enabling funding to facilitate the launch of the Hub Procurement Programme across Scotland. The Capital Enabling Funding is designed to support front runner projects with either a capital injection or funding to support project development by way of feasibility funding, land acquisition or early design work.

As a result of a delay on one of the front runner projects elsewhere within Scotland, an opportunity to bid for a reallocation of Capital Enabling Funding became available at short notice. Discussions with the East Central Scotland hub indicated that the Brechin proposal had a high chance of scoring well in the bidding process, if an application was submitted. Advice was sought from senior officers in each of the partner organisations, and a bid for enabling funds was submitted.

Following consideration of the bid by the hub co programme board an enabling fund of £191,577 has been awarded.

3. NEXT STEPS

A full potential accommodation needs assessment will now be prepared which will inform potential site options. Consideration will also be given to the requirements of a future integrated health and social care facility. Thereafter, a contract for a feasibility study will be let.

4. PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

The enabling funds will be used to assess the opportunities and feasibility of alternative property options. Any firm proposals will be the subject of further consultation and committee report(s). The Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Property are involved in the partnership's Accommodation Group.

5. RISKS

The enabling funds will allow further exploration of a plan which will include a feasibility element. This may therefore establish that the potential development is not feasible. There is therefore a risk that publicity surrounding the bid will raise expectations among the public that may not be realised.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, should the funding confirm that a development is feasible, it will be the subject of further committee reports.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications associated with the terms of this report

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

9. ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN AND SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2011-2014:

- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit
- Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services
- Our communities are safe, secure and vibrant
- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner

10. CONSULTATION

The Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted on the terms of this report.

**RICHARD STIFF
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

VS

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 a material extent in preparing the above report.