

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**HOUSING COMMITTEE - 10 APRIL 2001**

**WARM DEAL GRANT**

**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING**

**ABSTRACT**

This report advises members of the Scottish Executive's Warm Deal grant funding and allocation for Angus, and the progress being made by the Warm Deal project partnership between the Housing and Personnel Departments.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to note the contents of this report, and in particular, the success of the Warm Deal partnership project between Housing and Personnel.

**2. BACKGROUND**

As part of the Government's long-term objectives of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and alleviating fuel poverty, the Scottish Executive administers a grant scheme known as "The Warm Deal". Part of "The Warm Deal" scheme allows any householder on benefit to access a grant of up to £500 for energy efficiency measures in their home. The other part of the scheme involves the Scottish Executive allocating resources to Scottish authorities for upgrading of energy efficiency measures in local authority housing stock, dependent on strict qualifying criteria.

Payment of these grants is contingent upon the energy efficiency measures being carried out by participants in the New Deal Programme. The grants are paid on the basis of the number of days worked by The New Deal participants. This requirement reflects the dual purpose of the Warm Deal, ie to increase energy efficiency and to promote training and find jobs for unemployed people.

**3. WARM DEAL GRANT 2000/01**

Members will be aware of the ongoing insulation programme which aims to upgrade loft insulation in all of the Council's 10000 houses to above the minimum recommended standard.

This is being achieved by using approved installers in Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar and Montrose, and by the partnership with the Personnel Department's Training Services section in Arbroath. This latter arrangement is proving particularly successful in not only upgrading the energy efficiency of the housing stock, and thereby alleviating fuel poverty, but also in providing valuable training and employment opportunities for unemployed local people (between August 2000 to March 2001, 665 days employment have been provided via this partnership).

As Angus Council's grant allocation for the year 2000/01 was pegged at £50,000 – in spite of a submission to the Scottish Executive to increase the allocation – the available grant money has fallen short of the actual performance ie: the amount applied for by the end of the year was £70,000 but the amount awarded was £50,000.

The need for the loft insulation programme has been clearly shown in the recent stock survey, which identified 50% of Angus Council properties in need of upgrading. The low allocation of funds is hampering the Housing Department's attempts to achieve the

necessary number of upgrades, and therefore making it difficult to meet the targets for reducing domestic energy use as set out in the HECA strategy.

#### **4. WARM DEAL GRANT ALLOCATION 2001/02**

The Warm Deal grant allocation figure from the Scottish Executive for the new financial year is yet to be finalised, as they are considering the cost of the central heating initiative and its effect on the Warm Deal budget. They have, however, stated that Angus 'can be allocated a Warm Deal grant for the first quarter of 2001/02 equivalent in value to one quarter of the annual grant that was provided to it last year.....this means that it can spend up to, but not more than, £12500, for the first quarter of 2001/02.'

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Energy Initiatives budget in Planned Maintenance has £70,000 available for 2001/2002, and this will be utilised to fund the ongoing loft insulation programme. The grant from the Scottish Executive tops up this fund, so that whatever amount is allocated for the year, a relevant number of extra properties are consequently upgraded.

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

There are no human rights implications resulting from this report

#### **7. CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Law & Administration and Director of Personnel have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### **8. CONCLUSION**

By continuing the successful partnership with the Personnel Department, it is envisaged that the Housing Department will once again fully utilise the Warm Deal grant for 2001/2002, whatever the final allocation may be.

RON ASHTON  
Director of Housing

**NOTE:-** The following background papers, as defined by Section 50d of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied upon to any material extent in preparing this report.

Angus Council Report No.533/2000 Warm Deal Project 23 May 2000