

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 26 JANUARY 2016

PETITION – SAVE OUR SHELTERED HOUSING

REPORT BY SHEONA C HUNTER, HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This Report advises members of a petition in excess of 1,500 signatures received in connection with the proposed amendments to the support offered within sheltered housing by Angus Council.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

In terms of Standing Order 14, it is open to the Committee to EITHER:

- (i) note receipt of the petition and take no further action;
- (ii) determine that appropriate action has already been taken or is planned and no further action is necessary;
- (iii) request a fuller report from the relevant officer;
- (iv) undertake a detailed scrutiny review, gather evidence and make recommendations to the relevant committee; or
- (v) refer the matter to Angus Council where in the view of the Committee, its significance requires a debate.

In light of report 13/16 (Review of Housing for Older People) being deferred for consideration by Angus Council, it is recommended that the Committee determine that appropriate action has already been taken or is planned and that no further action is necessary in terms of standing order 14(ii) and ask that Council notes the terms of the petition.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services.

3. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to Report No 344/15 of the meeting of Angus Council on 10 September 2015 which at paragraph 4 provided for the introduction of a new procedure for dealing with petitions received by Angus Council on matters relating to Council business.

4. CURRENT POSITION

Members are advised that in terms of the new procedure introduced, a petition of some 1,500 (approximate) names has been submitted in connection with proposed changes to the service currently provided within sheltered housing. The petition is headed up "We the undersigned deplore Angus Council's proposed cuts in services for people in sheltered housing complexes, as well as other cuts in services for vulnerable people. Cuts will mean sheltered housing becomes amenity housing, community rooms will be removed and wardens will be axed. The laundry services to the vulnerable will cease. We are opposed to such cuts."

The petition was handed to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services by Councillor Fairweather on 3 December 2015 and in accordance with Standing Orders, it is presented to the Scrutiny and Audit Committee for its further consideration. Members are asked to consider the recommendations and determine the action appropriate in relation to the received petition.

Report 13/16 (Review of Housing for Older People) by the Strategic Director's People and Communities was to have been considered by the Social Work and Health and Communities Committees on 12 and 19 January respectively. Consideration of this matter has been deferred to a meeting of Angus Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications arising from the recommendations in this Report. For background purposes Members are referred to Report 13/16 which provides further information on the financial implications associated with the proposed amendments to sheltered housing services.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed 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.

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