

2 SHARED SERVICES EMPTY HOMES OFFICER SHARED SERVICES PROPOSAL (AN20-2015)

Reference is made to Article X of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 8th December, 2014 which agreed to the possibility of implementing a shared services approach to recruiting a temporary Empty Homes Officer Post for two years to progress initiatives in Dundee and Angus.

By using this approach Dundee City Council would, subject to approval, share a post with Angus Council. Dundee City Council would act as the Lead Council, employing the officer, and Angus Council would meet half of the costs. The total annual cost would be £41,141 (Dundee City Council share at 50% = £20,570) including national insurance costs, pension contributions etc. An application will be made for Scottish Government Empty Homes Partnership Funding. If successful this would provide grant funding of £20,000 in year one and £10,000 in year two.

Therefore the net costs to Dundee City Council would be £10,570 in year one and £15,570 in year two. The balance will be funded from Private Sector Housing Grant.

This officer would work with Revenues Division, Corporate Services Department and Private Sector Services Unit, Housing Department in Dundee City Council. This resource would assist in finding out more about the reasons for long term empty properties and, by engaging with owners, assist in providing information and developing solutions. This would have the benefit of minimising empty properties and maximising council tax income to the Council.