

REPORT TO: HOUSING COMMITTEE – 19 FEBRUARY 2001

**REPORT ON: WEST MARCH, DUNDEE
SALE OF LAND TO GOWRIE HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD.**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

REPORT NO.: 85-2001

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To seek approval for the sale of land in West March to Gowrie Housing Association Ltd. for the purpose of building social housing for rent.
- 1.2. To seek approval in principle to support a training project associated with the construction of the houses.
- 1.3. This report will contribute to the Council objectives of improving Housing Quality and Choice and Developing Employment and Training Initiatives.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 2.1. Approve the sale of a site in West March (as shown in Appendix 1) to Gowrie Housing Association Ltd.
- 2.2. Instruct the Director of Economic Development to negotiate the sale of the site based on Gowrie Housing Association's independent valuation of £50,000.
- 2.3. Instruct the Director of Support Services to prepare the necessary offer and Draft Disposition and also to seek Secretary of State's consent to:
 - The transfer of the site to the Non Housing Revenue Account and;
 - Complete the sale of the site.
- 2.4. Agree in principle to the receipt generated by the sale of this site being directed towards enhancing the services in the Kirkton and Trottick regeneration area subject to a more detailed report being submitted to the appropriate Committee, in the near future.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Approval of this report would result in a capital receipt of £50,000 the General Services Account (Non HRA) during 2000/01.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

This report would support the Local Agenda 21 theme of local needs being met locally.

5. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

None.

6. **BACKGROUND**

- 6.1. In January 2000 Gowrie Housing Association submitted a proposal for a project described as "A Training and Employment Initiative in Social Housing" to be undertaken at Thornton Road, West March.

This innovative scheme involves constructing ten houses for rent combined with the provision of 15 training placements for unemployed people.

- 6.2. Although described as a training scheme, the on-site element of the project is intended to replicate as closely as possible the requirements of a construction site environment.

In addition to gaining construction skills and experience the trainees also attend college in order to gain complementary qualifications.

- 6.3. Funding for the construction element is provided by private finance and Housing Association Grant from Scottish Homes.

- 6.4. The immediate priority is to transfer the site to Gowrie Housing Association in order that site acquisition fees may be released in the current financial year.

ELAINE ZWIRLEIN
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

Signed: _____

Date: _____

