

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

24 JANUARY 2002

SUBJECT: TAYSIDE NATIVE WOODLANDS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

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| <p>Abstract: Angus Council is a funding member of Tayside Native Woodlands. This report recommends that the Council continues to fund projects undertaken by the company.</p> |
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1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to the Committee that Angus Council contribute £5,500 in both the 2001/02 and 2002/03 financial years to Tayside Native Woodlands for the delivery of the first two years of the six projects detailed in Appendix A.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Tayside Native Woodlands (TNW) was incorporated as a company on 26 July 1996 and is now a registered charity. The aim of the company is “to ensure the multi-purpose management, including expansion, of Tayside’s native woodlands as an integral part of forestry and rural land use for public benefit”. Angus Council is a funding member of the company and the Council’s Countryside Officer is Angus Council’s nominated Director on the Board of the company (report No. 219/96 refers). The other funding members are Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Forestry Commission and Perth & Kinross Council.

3 TAYSIDE NATIVE WOODLANDS

3.1 TNW currently employs three staff; a Project Director, a Project Officer; and an administrator. An independent Chairman has also been co-opted onto the Board.

3.2 Tayside Native Woodlands’ achievements April 2000 – December 2001:-

- approximately 250 ha of native woodland brought into formal management within Angus;
- 125 ha of new native woodland within Angus;
- a total of 12 seminars were held of which 6 were within Angus, although all seminars were attended by individuals from throughout Tayside. Topics included the pruning and thinning of woodland to increase timber value and the collection of tree seed;
- around 430 copies of TNW ‘woodnote’ advice and research publications distributed plus many downloaded from TNW website;

- TNW is working with other bodies to prepare a Heritage Lottery fund bid in order to deliver the Woodland Habitat Action Plan targets set out in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan;
- assisted 87 businesses through provision of information and linkages;
- in relation to the Community Woodlands Project, TNW is already working with communities in Tarfside, around Balkello Hill and Strathmartine Hospital and the nearby Baldovan Wood;

3.3 Funding is now sought towards the following six individual projects to be delivered by TNW:-

1. Community Woodlands Project.
2. Woodland Biodiversity Project.
3. Tayside Veteran Tree Project.
4. Tayside Native Woodlands Project.
5. Best Practice Transfer.
6. Helpline Service.

Details of each project are included in Appendix A.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Angus Council has contributed £5,000 towards the core funding of TNW each year between 1997/98 and 2000/2001. In order to assist the financial management of individual projects and increase transparency for funders, funding has now been sought on an individual project basis. The total Angus Council funding sought for the six projects in the first two years is £5,500 each year. A breakdown of the costs and contributions sought for each project is also contained within Appendix A. Whilst the funding sought represents an increase of £500 in relation to previous years, this can be contained within the Planning and Transport Department's Revenue budget (Rural Affairs) in both the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 financial years.

| Project | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Community Woodland Project | £2,000 | £2,000 |
| Woodland Biodiversity Project | £500 | £500 |
| Tayside Veteran Tree Project | £2,000 | £2,000 |
| Tayside Native Woodland Forum | £250 | £250 |
| Best Practice Transfer | £500 | £500 |
| Helpline Service | £250 | £250 |
| Total Angus Council Contribution | £5,500 | £5,500 |

No commitment to Council funding beyond 2002/03 is being given at the moment. Any further contribution for 2003/04 will be the subject of a further report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

6 CONSULTATION

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

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The appropriate management and expansion of Tayside's native woodland resource is considered highly desirable and also contributes towards the delivery of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 7.2 The TNW represents an effective means by which Angus Council can contribute to this objective.

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 any material extent in preparing the above Report.

AA/SJR/IAL
17 January 2002

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport

APPENDIX A

TAYSIDE NATIVE WOODLAND PROJECT FOR WHICH ANGUS COUNCIL FUNDING IS REQUESTED**1. COMMUNITY WOODLANDS PROJECT**

Aim: To expand community involvement in woodlands in Tayside.

TNW and others will provide information, support and advice to communities who wish to be more involved in the management of their local woodlands in Tayside.

Objectives:

1. To raise awareness of the opportunities available to communities for involvement in the management of their local woodland.
2. Provide a one-stop-shop service to community groups requiring advice, support and information on all aspects of establishing a community woodland group
3. Provide follow up training to assist communities with their skill development
4. Provide on-going expertise, advice and support to communities as they develop their project.

The Need: There is great concern from the general public regarding the environment as a whole and in particular the management of the countryside. Most people live and work within towns and cities, but they spend a considerable amount of their leisure time in the countryside. Within Tayside 80% of all native woodlands are within 3 miles of the nearest sizeable population (TNWI 1995). Many people feel they have little or no influence on the management of the countryside around them and therefore on their future heritage.

Since a substantial proportion of forestry activity is subsidised by the taxpayer, to the tune £1.4 million in Tayside in 2000/01 there is increasing demand from the public to have a greater say in how and where this money is spent. This project will allow local communities to be actively involved in the management of their local woodland. Support will be given to local communities through a number of mechanisms including relevant training provision, free access to independent forestry and /or conservation advice. It will also provide a mechanism where rural and urban communities can work together towards a common goal, facilitating greater understanding between these two communities and promoting mutual co-operation.

If this project is not funded then people living in Tayside may not be able to realise the full potential of direct influence in the management of the woodlands around them and the divide between urban and rural communities will continue to grow. The opportunities for establishing community networks and local skill development will be missed.

Supporting this project will allow local people to potentially participate in the decision making process about countryside management. The benefits of an active, thriving, participatory community will reach well beyond the woodland gate.

Outputs:

- 5000 information leaflets distributed to local groups
- 40 community groups contacted directly and provided with information on community woodlands
- 100 community woodland packs developed providing all the information and advice require for each group
- 20 Community Woodland information seminars/ workshops delivered to over 200 local group leaders
- Exchange of information with already established community woodland groups, enabling skill transfer and transfer of best practice.
- 5 community woodland groups established, woodland identified and negotiations with the owner begun
- 7 Quarterly newsletters to allow each group to be kept informed of community woodland developments within and beyond Tayside
- Significant increase in transferable skills attained by the community
- United community working towards a common purpose
- Increased recreational resource for the community
- Increased quality of life
- Improved job prospects within the community
- Greater control of their rural economy
- Plus many intangible benefits, which are difficult to measure such as increased sense of well-being. These things are also very important to rural communities

Staffing:**Tayside Native Woodlands**

Project Director

Project Officer

Administrator

Additional Specialists:

Reforestation Scotland

The Forestry Commission

Scottish Natural Heritage

Consultants

Trainers

Local Authorities – Councillors, Education & Community Staff

Partners

Local Community Groups

Local Rural Partnerships

Community Councils

Tayside Native Woodlands

The Forestry Commission

Forest Enterprise

Scottish Natural Heritage

The Cairngorms Partnership

WWF

Perth & Kinross Council – Education & Community staff

Angus Council – Education & Community staff

Dundee City Council – Education & Community staff

Reforestation Scotland

Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

National Farmers Union (NFU)

Timber Growers Association (TGA)

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership (TBP)

| Funding Partners | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | |
| Angus Council* | £2,000 | £2,000 | £2,500 | £6,500 |
| Dundee City Council* | £0 | £1,000 | £1,000 | £2,000 |
| Forestry Commission | £7,500 | £7,500 | £8,500 | £23,500 |
| Perth & Kinross Council* | £2,000 | £2,120 | £2,500 | £6,620 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | £7,500 | £7,500 | £8,500 | £23,500 |
| Reforestation Scotland (in kind) | £500 | £1,000 | £1,000 | £2,500 |
| Heritage Lottery | £8,200 | £12,045 | £7,284 | £27,529 |
| Total Cost of Project | £27,700 | £33,165 | £31,284 | £92,149 |

* Approval only given on an annual basis

2. WOODLAND BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Aim: To secure match funding for £600,000 WGS from FC from Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver woodland habitat action plan targets as outlined in the Tayside LBAP

Objectives:

1. Secure funding for expansion of MLURI Native Woodland Potential Model for all of lowland Tayside and contract MLURI to undertake work
2. Produce composite data set of all woodland data to determine 'Woodland Biodiversity Hot-Spots'
3. Organise Forum for discussion with relevant interested parties to discuss proposals (include land owners, forestry agents and consultants, public agencies and Local Authorities)
4. Secure funding for development of a Stage I bid for £600,000 to HLF

Outputs:

- Enable stage I of the £1,2 million bid to be progressed
- Prioritised areas within Tayside for delivery of woodland habitat action plans providing the best biodiversity

Staffing:

Tayside Native Woodlands

Project Director
Project Officer
Administrator

Additional Specialists:

The Forestry Commission
Scottish Natural Heritage
Forest Enterprise
MLURI

Funding:

| Funding Partners | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | TOTAL |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | |
| Angus Council | £ 500 | £ 500 | £ 500 | £ 1,500 |
| Forestry Commission | £5,500 | £5,500 | £5,500 | £16,500 |
| Perth & Kinross Council | £ 500 | £ 500 | £ 500 | £ 1,500 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | £9,500 | £9,500 | £9,500 | £28,500 |
| Total Cost of Project | £16,000 | £16,000 | £16,000 | £48,000 |

3. TAYSIDE VETERAN TREE PROJECT

Aim: To enable the general public in Tayside to learn more about the environmental, cultural and historical importance of their veteran trees.

Objectives:

1. Involvement of the public to identify trees, which are important in their local environment.
2. Provide training workshops for the general public to complete phase 1 level surveys for ancient & veteran trees.
3. Provide training to Tree wardens and interested members of the public (at a subsidised rate) to be involved in follow up phase I surveys with more detailed surveys
4. Collation of information from the Woodland inventory maps of Scotland (Caledonian Partnership maps), where individual trees are identified. – Tree wardens and trained surveyors to go and survey trees (experts or trained volunteers – probably pay an expenses rate for car etc)
5. History follow up – examine old maps, historical evidence
6. Promote trees as part of Big Tree Country

Outputs:

- Production of 1000 leaflets to publicise the project and the benefits to local people
- 500 trees surveyed and the information added to the web site
- 10 ‘Tree detective’ workshops given free to members of the public
- 300 people trained to undertake level I surveys
- Tree wardens and nature groups trained to undertake level II surveys
- Maps produced of distribution and condition of veteran trees in Tayside which will be used to develop the Wood Pasture & Parkland Habitat Action Plan as part of the LBAP process
- Report produced for use by other LBAPs and other agencies including the Woodland Trust to undertake similar work in the UK

Staffing:**Tayside Native Woodlands**

Project Director
Project Officer
Administrator

Additional Specialists:

Ancient Tree Forum
Department of Environmental History – University of Stirling
Scottish Natural Heritage
Consultants
Tree wardens
Natural History Groups and other interested parties e.g.
SNAG

Partners

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Local Community Groups | Perth & Kinross Council – Education & Community staff |
| Local Rural Partnerships | Angus Council – Education & Community staff |
| Community Councils | Dundee City Council – Education & Community staff |
| Tayside Native Woodlands | Reforestation Scotland |
| The Forestry Commission | Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) |
| Forest Enterprise | National Farmers Union (NFU) |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | Timber Growers Association (TGA) |
| The Cairngorms Partnership | Tayside Biodiversity Partnership (TBP) |
| WWF | National Arboreal Society |
| | Royal Botanic Gardens - Edinburgh |

Funding

| Funder | 2001/2002 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | Total |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Forestry Commission | £1,800 | £ 2,000 | £2,000 | £5,800 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | £1,800 | £ 2,500 | £3,000 | £7,300 |
| Angus Council* | £2,000 | £ 2,000 | £2,000* | £6,000 |
| Dundee City Council* | £0 | £ 1,000 | £1,000* | £2,000 |
| Perth & Kinross Council* | £2,200 | £ 2,000 | £2,000* | £6,200 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | £8,550 | £12,315 | £13,518 | £34,383 |
| Esmee Fairburn Foundation | £0 | £ 5,125 | £4,300 | £9,425 |
| Carneigie Trust ¹ | £0 | £0 | £5,000 | £5,000 |
| TOTAL | £16,350 | £26,940 | £32,818 | £76,108 |

* Approval only given on an annual basis

¹ To be approved

4. TAYSIDE NATIVE WOODLANDS FORUM

Aim: To provide an opportunity for the woodland community to discuss topical issues with other relevant organisations and individuals

Forum, which meets twice per year to enable the woodland community and others to discuss relevant issues

Objectives:

1. Organise two Forum visits per year (Spring/ Autumn) to areas which demonstrate best practice
2. Ensure wide range of interested parties attend through direct mail shots
3. Provide administrative support to forum members
4. Ensure visits are conducted safely

Funding:

| Funders | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | TOTAL |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| The Forestry Commission | £500 | £500 | £500 | £1,500 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | £500 | £500 | £500 | £1,500 |
| Angus Council | £250 | £250 | £250 | £750 |
| Perth & Kinross Council | £250 | £250 | £250 | £750 |
| Private | £350 | £350 | £350 | £1,050 |
| TOTAL | £1,850 | £1,850 | £1,850 | £5,550 |

5. BEST PRACTICE TRANSFER

Aim: To improve the skill base of those who own, manage or utilise native woodland in Tayside.

Objectives:

1. Provide a series of 5 (full day equivalent) seminars which reflect the needs of those who manage own and use native woodlands in Tayside
2. Ensure seminars/ courses are accredited by Institute of Chartered Foresters for inclusion as contributing to the Professional Development of foresters
3. Undertake questionnaire survey of all those attending seminars/ courses to establish topical areas for year 2 seminar series and to ensure high standard of delivery.

Staffing:

Tayside Native Woodlands

Project Director
Project Officer
Administrator

Additional Specialists:

Forestry Commission
Forestry Agents
Scottish Natural Heritage
Consultants
Trainers
Many others

Funding:

| Funders | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| The Forestry Commission | £2,500 | £2,500 | £2,500 | £7,500 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | £2,500 | £2,500 | £2,500 | £7,500 |
| Scottish Enterprise Tayside | £2,500 | £2,500 | £2,500 | £7,500 |
| Angus Council | £ 500 | £ 500 | £ 500 | £1,500 |
| Perth & Kinross Council | £ 400 | £ 400 | £ 400 | £1,200 |
| Landfill Tax Credit | £12,000 | £12,000 | £12,000 | £36,000 |
| Private | £2,200 | £2,200 | £2,200 | £6,600 |
| TOTAL | £22,600 | £22,600 | £22,600 | £67,800 |

6. HELPLINE SERVICE

Aim: To provide free One-Stop-Shop for all native woodland advice and information

Objectives:

1. To provide independent and free advice to all woodland owners managers and those involved in the native timber trade
2. To maintain up to date information covering all aspects of woodland management from conservation to timber machinery specifications and make freely available to all
3. Maintain and develop the TNW web site and post all work, studies and information free of charge on the site
4. To ensure regular checks on service quality and develop the service to meet the needs of the whole native woodland sector

Funding:

| Funders | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| British Telecom | £2,000 | £2,000 | £2,000 | 6,000 |
| The Forestry Commission | £500 | £500 | £500 | 1,500 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | £500 | £500 | £500 | 1,500 |
| Angus Council | £250 | £250 | £250 | 750 |
| Perth & Kinross Council | £250* | £250* | £250* | 750 |
| Scottish Enterprise Tayside | £500 | £500 | £500 | 1,500 |
| TOTAL | £4,000 | £4,000 | £4,000 | £12,000 |

* To be approved