

ANGUS COUNCIL

RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2002
PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – 28 NOVEMBER 2002

APPLICATION FOR SEASIDE AWARD STATUS - MONTROSE SEAFRONT

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES AND
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORT**ABSTRACT**

It is proposed to submit an application for the Seaside Award for Montrose Seafront.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that it be remitted to the Directors of Leisure Services, Planning & Transport and Environmental and Consumer Protection to make an application for the Seaside Award and Blue Flag Award status for Montrose Seafront Beach.

2. BACKGROUND

Members will recall that a member officer group visited St Andrews, Fife and the Angus Beaches in August of this year. The visit was to allow those present to assess the requirements should the Council consider application for Seaside Award and Blue Flag Award for its Angus beaches. Members were made aware during the visit that there are implications for the Council from the perspective of additional revenue costs but equally the promotion of the beaches as a tourism asset.

The Environment and Quality of Life Member Officer Group considered this issue at its meeting on the 18 October 2002 and recommended that this report be brought before the relevant committees for consideration proposing that an application is submitted as a pilot project for Montrose Seafront. The suggested zone that the award would apply to would extend from the south end of the seawall to the beach access to the north as shown on the attached plan.

The Blue Flag Award is a prestigious award and universal within the European Union. The first step to achieving the Blue Flag Award is an application for Seaside Award Status. This is similar to the Blue Flag Award and is awarded by EnCams. One important distinction between the Blue Flag Award and the Seaside Award is that there are two categories for the Seaside Award, Resort and Rural. There are 29 criteria for the Resort beach Award and 13 for the rural beach award.

The potential Resort beaches in Angus would be: Montrose Seafront
Arbroath Westlinks

The potential Rural beaches in Angus would be: Carnoustie
Lunan Bay
East Haven

The criteria for Resort beach are listed on Appendix 1.

Of all the beaches in Angus, Montrose Seafront beach is at present best placed to meet all the requirements for the Seaside award, and it is proposed that we proceed with an application as a pilot. Experience from Montrose would then be used for further applications.

Clean Coast Scotland were invited to inspect Montrose Seafront and they have outlined the following areas which required improvement:

- Signs are required to display water quality in a user friendly way, this would be completed at the Traill Pavilion.
- Maps of facilities located around the facility
- Life saving equipment – this will require a risk assessment to determine precisely what is required. It should be noted that this is likely to be above our standard provision as outlined in the report no 253/98 of this Committee where beaches were not included from the locations where we were to provide life saving equipment.

- Better control of litter on promenade and beach – daily litter pick during season.
- Dogs under control signs on the beach side of adjacent promenade. This will require a designated beach area (from June to September), where on a voluntary basis dogs will be required to be on a lead and dog faeces uplifted into bins provided.
- Greater number of Dog bins and litterbins.
- Adequate disabled access to designated beach area – this could be achieved with disabled parking at the soon to be upgraded Ashie car park and timber walkway down to the ramp at the North end of the promenade.
- Portable litterbin at foot of steps onto the beach and at disabled access point.
- A drinking water source.
- Management plan to co-ordinate functions.

In addition to the above they advised that the main requirements for the Blue Flag award would be:

- Dog exclusion for the designated beach area for the season June – September
- Lifeguard provision during the season June - September

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost for upgrade requirement at Montrose Seafront are:

	£
Life Saving Equipment	1,500
Signage Improvements	5,000
Disabled Access Facilities (to the beach)	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL	11,500

The £5,000 upgrading of the disabled access facilities to the beach would be completed as part of the planned improvements for the Ashie car park which are being funded by Scottish Water as part of the accommodation works associated with the sewage development at Broomfield.

The remaining £6,500 costs can be contained within the Leisure Services 2002/2003 Revenue Budget.

The annual cost for additional litter uplifts is estimated to be £1,000 and will be contained within the current and future Environmental and Consumer Protection Revenue Budget.

For the Blue Flag award, the additional costs would primarily be the revenue cost for training and employment of lifeguards, which would be in the region of £3k per post and would be subject of a further report prior to formal application at a later date.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance, and the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JOHN R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

ALEX ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORT

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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 this report.

Check list for Seaside Award

The Seaside Award – Resort category recognises well-managed resort beaches, which are clean and relatively safe. It is awarded annually and is valid for one year. A resort award beach must fulfil 29 criteria, one of which refers to water quality, which must comply with at least the mandatory standard of the Bathing Water Directive the previous year. The beach must include at least one sampling point, monitored (and probably identified) under the Bathing Water Directive.

Water Quality

Does your water quality meet Mandatory / Guideline standards?

Are there any discharges of sewage near the bathing water?

Beach and Intertidal Area

Is there a problem with unsightly waste, sewage, litter or vegetation?

If yes is there an adequate system in place for dealing with accumulating seaweed or litter?

Safety

Are there any lifeguards in position? If there are, are the times that they work and the area patrolled marked?

Is there suitable lifesaving equipment available and is it checked daily?

Is there a first aid facility available between 10.00 a.m. and 6.p.m. on the seafront?

Is there a daily beach supervisor throughout the summer season between 10.00 and 6pm? (This may be an attendant, lifeguard, first aid officer, beach officer or a combination.)

Are records kept of all emergency incidents and is there a procedure in place for notifying the Seaside award office of any significant incidents.

Management

Is the beach actively managed?

Is there a local emergency plans to cope with pollution incidents?

Is there easy and safe access to the beach for all including disabled people, where possible?

Is unauthorised driving, camping and dumping prohibited?

Are different user areas zoned e.g. for swimmers, surfers, wind-surfers, motorised craft, nature conservation?

Are dogs banned from the Award area throughout the summer season?

Are dog refuse bins available along the seafront where all dogs should be kept on a lead and under control at all times?

Is there a clearly signed and protected source of drinking water?

Is there public telephone, checked daily and within easy access (5 minutes' walk) from any point on the award beach?

Are there adequate toilet facilities, cleaned and maintained daily, including facilities for disabled people?

Are all buildings and equipment maintained to a high standard?

Does the beach have adequate access and parking facilities with marked spaces and suitable access for disabled people?

Cleansing

Is there adequate cleansing of the beach? (number of times dependent on amount of litter but recommended that it is done once a day by hand)

Are there appropriate litterbins in adequate numbers, properly secured and regularly maintained and emptied at least daily?

Information and Education

Is there a way of warning the public, quickly if the beach has or is expected to become grossly polluted or unsafe?

Is there evidence that the interests of protected sites and rare species have been addressed with close liaison with recognised local conservation organisations?

Are the laws covering beach use and appropriate codes of conduct easily available to the public including in Tourist Information Centres and civic offices?

Is there a public display of information including bathing water quality; previous three years' (at least) water quality standards; times of supervision and first aid; local bye laws including dog restrictions; Seaside Award criteria; Local/ Managing Authority and Seaside Award addresses; environmental initiatives; and map delineating Award beach with details of facilities and water sampling points; local environmental activities?

Can you demonstrate that the council encourages promotional /educational activities through the year relating to the coastal environment in the area?