

ANGUS COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 14 MAY 2002
MONTROSE PARTNERSHIP– COMMUNITY PLANNING
Report by the Chief Executive

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update on the development and establishment of the Montrose Partnership.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee:-

- a) approve for their interest the establishment of the Montrose Partnership
- b) nominate an Angus Council representative to be on the Partnership

2. BACKGROUND

Montrose has over a number of years been faced with many “ups and downs”. On the one hand things like the closure of some industries have led to a downturn in the economy of the area in general, and of Montrose in particular. Many of the public sector and private sector partners involved in the well-being of Montrose are committed to developing a new and economically viable future for the Montrose area. Difficulties however remain in terms of the need to make the burgh of Montrose a more vibrant and economically active place.

There are many bodies which have an interest in the regeneration of Montrose, both locally and across the public sector.

It is acknowledged that a great deal of work is already being undertaken mainly through The Montrose Society, The Business/Retailers Association, The Montrose Town Centre Initiative and the Local Community Planning process stimulated by Angus Council. A number of groups and individuals have met on a number of occasions to discuss how some of the issues could be taken forward and a Montrose Partnership has been established.

Experience elsewhere suggests that the collective expertise of interested parties can best be harnessed if those interested commit themselves to working in partnership.

It is acknowledged that Partnerships in themselves do not remove the financial, political and legal restrictions and difficulties that all the various partners need to deal with. It does however provide the focus whereby solutions to some of these problems can be addressed.

The inaugural meeting of the Partnership was held on 7 February where the following office bearers were elected: -

Chairman- Dr A H Sutton

Vice Chairman- Mr C Ninteman

Secretary- It has been agreed that the position of secretary be provided through an officer of Angus Council. It is anticipated that the position will be filled by the Lead Officer of Montrose Area Forum. The role will also include providing generic guidance and advice.

Treasurer- Mr J Anderson

Presently the following public, private and community sector agencies are represented on the Partnership:-

Angus Council
Montrose Society
Montrose Community Council
MERPRO Leisure
Montrose Business and Retailer's Association
North Angus Support Group, Scottish Wildlife Trust
Dunninald

A draft Partnership Agreement was drawn up and was the subject of discussion and consultation with a number of groups and individuals in the Montrose area. The Partnership agreement was approved at the inaugural meeting as the basis for the operation of the Montrose Partnership.

A copy of the agreement is attached for your further information

The overall objective of the Partnership is to encourage representatives of the public, private and community sector to act together to develop the economic potential of Montrose in order that the burgh can meet the needs of local population and visitors alike.

The Partnership will meet on a regular basis and are currently identifying short, medium and long-term aims of the Partnership. Work is currently well underway to produce a leaflet promoting Montrose. The content includes the history of the area, places to visit, events and advertisements from local businesses.

Other issues being discussed include:-

- Development of Montrose website
- Fund raising initiatives
- Expanded Montrose Extravaganza to be held in December

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost associated with the production and distribution of the Montrose leaflet is Approx. £1500.

£1000 has been raised by the Partnership through businesses advertising in the leaflet. It is unknown at this time how much of this funding will go towards the leaflet and what Angus Council's contribution will be.

4. **HUMAN RIGHTS**

There are no Human Right implications arising from this report.

5. **CONSULTATION**

The Directors of Law & Administration, Finance and the Economic Development Manager have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

Community groups and individuals have been consulted during the formation of the Montrose Partnership.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

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 upon to any material extent in preparing this report.

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