

ANGUS COUNCIL

RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 27 FEBRUARY
1997

CELEBRATION OF THE COAST

REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS OF CULTURAL SERVICES, PLANNING,
TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, RECREATION AND
ROADS.

ABSTRACT

To report on the result of the submission of the Celebration of the Coast project to the Millennium Commission.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to :

- a. Note the report
- b. Authorise us to continue to pursue alternative funding sources for the project.

2. BACKGROUND

Members will recall Article 5, Report No 217/96, 18th April 1996 gave approval for the submission of an Angus project for the Celebration of the Coast project for Millennium Commission support. The project was promoted by the National Tourist Boards with the Scottish Tourist Board co-ordinating the Scottish proposal.

The Angus proposal included

- the development of a coastal walkway from Monifieth to Montrose
- a coastal cycleway
- the provision of public art along the walkway
- the development of interpretative facilities along the walkway and the creation of a Museum of the Coast in the Traill Pavilion at Montrose

The total cost of the project was estimated to be some £1,250,000.

3. OUTCOME

The Tourist Boards representatives held a number of meetings with the Commissioners to explain elements of the projects. The final submission was considered by the Commissioners in January and unfortunately was rejected. Among the reasons for refusal were:

- the quality of some of the proposed projects was still not considered to be as distinctive as others or have significant impact in their location.
- the ability of the individual projects to attract sufficient co-funding and revenue funds.
- the Boards desire to act as facilitators only and inability to take on the contractual liability for the delivery of the whole scheme.

While the rejection is most unfortunate it is felt that the proposals for the Angus project were imaginative and could help to attract considerable numbers of visitors to the area. Other sources of funding may be available and it is proposed that we be authorised to investigate ways of obtaining the resources to allow the project as a whole, or elements of it, to proceed. The view of the Scottish Tourist Board co-ordinators was that "the quality and legitimacy of the Scottish projects was not an issue" in the rejection of the scheme and accordingly we should have a secure base from which to progress.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no substantial financial implications at present apart from the time of officers involved in re-working the project and submitting funding applications.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law and Administration, Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Development, Director of Recreation and Director of Roads have been consulted in the preparation of this report and support the recommendations.

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.

Gavin Drummond
Director of Cultural
Services

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning
Transport and Economic
Development

John Zimny
Director of Recreation
Services

Bob McLellan
Director of Roads

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