

**ANGUS COUNCIL****POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****27 OCTOBER 1998****SUBJECT: CONCORDAT BETWEEN ANGUS COUNCIL  
AND SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE****JOINT REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND  
TRANSPORT**

**Abstract: This Report outlines the terms of a proposed Concordat between the Council and Scottish Natural Heritage which provides a broad framework through which joint working may be planned and monitored.**

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee -

1. note the preparation of the Concordat with Scottish Natural Heritage and agree the broad content of the document including actions arising;
2. authorise the Chief Executive to sign the Concordat on behalf of Angus Council;
3. welcome the contribution of the Concordat towards the Council's key themes and corporate priorities.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Angus Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (S.N.H.) enjoy a constructive working relationship and have made significant achievements across a wide range of projects and initiatives through partnership working. In order to help cement and build on this approach to collaborative and joint working, officials of the Council and S.N.H. have drafted a proposed Concordat in the form of a working document.
- 2.2 A copy of the proposed Concordat has been placed in the Member's Lounge and a summary of the main actions arising is appended to this Report.

**3 PROPOSED CONCORDAT**

- 3.1 The four broad goals which help set the context for and direct the content of the Concordat include:-
  - to progress towards sustainable use of the natural heritage of Angus;
  - to promote a high quality natural environment;
  - to provide opportunities to enjoy the natural heritage;
  - to further develop the provision of environmental education.

- 3.2 Various principles and actions are identified in the Concordat in support of the above goals. It is clear that the Council's interests extend across a number of departments and Committees and this has been reflected in discussions and input to date encompassing officers from several departments. Many of the issues identified also extend beyond the Council and S.N.H. to other bodies, organisations and individuals with an environmental focus. The Concordat therefore helps to set a framework for wider collaboration.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this Report.

#### **5 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The Directors of Finance, Law and Administration, Cultural Services, Education, Recreation Services have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

#### **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The Concordat helps address several of the Council's key themes and corporate priorities, including:-
- to improve the environment and the quality of life in Angus with an emphasis on sustainability;
  - to promote equal opportunities/reduce inequalities in Angus;
  - to develop partnerships;
  - to develop a detailed Council response to Local Agenda 21.
- 6.2 Preparation and implementation of the Concordat should help to further develop the good working relationships and productive joint working which already exist between Angus Council and Scottish Natural Heritage.

#### **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/CGR/KW/IAL  
14 October 1998

A. B. Watson  
Chief Executive

Alex Anderson  
Director of Planning and Transport

## 6. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

- ACTION 1.1** The Council will liaise with SNH on the work being carried out to develop a Local Agenda 21 Strategy for Angus. SNH will contribute environmental information and expertise as required.
- ACTION 1.2** The Council and SNH will liaise to ensure that a move towards a sustainable approach is adopted as far as possible in their activities within Angus.
- ACTION 2.1.1** A procedural agreement on Development Control will be prepared by SNH and Angus Council. The agreement will be monitored.
- ACTION 2.1.2** Forward planning liaison arrangements will be discussed and agreed as part of a Procedural Agreement on Development Plans.
- ACTION 2.2** Opportunities for furthering the aims of the Cairngorms Partnership will be discussed at liaison meetings under this Concordat.
- ACTION 2.3** Production of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the possibility of enhancing a Local Biological Records Centre, will be discussed at the liaison meetings under this Concordat.
- ACTION 2.4** Implementation of the Millennium Forest will be discussed at the liaison meetings under this Concordat as part of wider proposals and initiatives to expand woodland cover in Angus.
- ACTION 2.5** Opportunities for developing the work of the Tay Estuary Forum will be discussed at the liaison meetings under this Concordat.
- ACTION 2.6** An overview of initiatives, projects and opportunities arising from current and future relevant E.U. Environmental Programmes will be discussed at the liaison meetings under this Concordat.
- ACTION 3.1** The Council and SNH will work together to develop a programme of countryside recreation projects developing the Paths for All initiative, with the involvement of the AET.
- ACTION 3.2** The Council and SNH will work to enable a grant offer supporting the Ranger Service to be received by the Council by March of each year. The Council will work to supplying SNH with the necessary documentation to achieve this, including an annual report by the end of May.
- ACTION 3.3** The Council and SNH will consider how to develop a Countryside and Access Strategy in Angus to take forward the aims set out in the SNH Guidance.
- ACTION 4.1** SNH and Angus Council will work together to prepare a document during 1998 setting out a joint agenda on environmental education.
- ACTION 4.2** Angus Council and SNH will consider the role of Interpretive Strategies and how best these may be pursued in Angus including the preparation of an Angus Glens Interpretive Strategy.
- ACTION 4.3** The role of the Angus Local Rural Partnership in environmental issues will be discussed at the liaison meeting under this Concordat.
- ACTION 5.1** SNH and the Council will meet annually to review and update this Concordat.

