

ANGUS COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 24 MARCH 1998****Report by The Chief Executive****CELEBRATING THE MILLENNIUM****ABSTRACT**

The Management Team in September 1997 considered a report by the Millennium Officer Working Group which made the suggestion that the Council should consider developing a programme of events and projects to celebrate the Millennium.

This report addresses 4 priority areas and makes recommendations for future development.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Policy and Resources Committee agree:-

- (i) to appoint on a fixed term basis to 31 December 2000 an individual to the post of Millennium Celebration Co-ordinator, Grade AP8 at a cost in financial year 1998/99 of £26,600;
- (ii) in principle, subject for further detailed proposals being brought forward to make available an initial the sum of circa £20,000 in the financial year 1998/99 to assist in the preparatory work leading up to the millennium;
- (iii) to initiate a series of formal consultation meetings between the Council and key partners to establish a multi-agency Millennium Steering Committee;
- (iv) to liaise with Community Groups, organisations and individuals across Angus with a view to co-ordinating activities for Celebrating the Millennium;
- (v) to instruct the Millennium Steering Committee to prepare papers, recommendations, reservation and charging procedures in respect of Council owned properties during the year of the Millennium;
- (vi) that Millennium celebrations take place in Angus during the period 31st December 1999 - 31st December 2000.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Seconded Officer Working Group was tasked with 4 key priority areas:-

1. to prepare ideas for Angus Council's suggested list of celebratory events and projects;

2. to seek commitments in principle from key funding partners;
3. to liaise with Community Groups and organisations about the concepts outlined in this paper; and
4. to identify likely financial burdens and possible funding opportunities for Angus Council in support of a Millennium programme. These are addressed as follows:-

3. REPORT

3.1 Ideas for Celebratory Events And Projects

A number of ideas have emerged over the past few months as to how Angus might celebrate the Millennium.

However, it was neither possible nor desirable to develop these ideas to the finished article. Rather, the ideas remain at an outline stage, and consequently the detailed funding implications are unable to be identified at this point in time. Whoever is tasked with taking these ideas forward over the next 12 months must ensure that funding etc. details and issues are addressed.

3.2 Commitments in Principle From Key Funding Partners

With regard to key funding partners, informal consultations have been held with each of these bodies. Each of the organisations responded favourably to the Council's proposal and their responses are summarised below:

- (a) **Scottish Enterprise Tayside** commented that they would wish to co-operate in the proposals. The LEC network had taken a collective decision not to provide additional resources for Millennium events but SET noted that some ideas might allow them to give priority to certain projects where they are seen as making a significant contribution to the SET Programme.
- (b) **The Business Shop** are extremely supportive of the ideas. However they are unlikely to have sufficient funds to "co-promote" any event. However the Business Shop envisage playing a co-ordinating role among local businesses to raise funds to support events and projects and are also keen to offer "in kind" and other forms of support.
- (c) **Tayside Health Board** commented that they think it is an excellent idea and wish to participate fully in the events.
- (d) **Angus and Dundee Tourist Board** are supportive of the concept.
- (e) **The Millennium Commission**; have established a £20m reserve to fund local celebrations and events. It was anticipated that the guidance and invitation for bids would be issued towards the end of 1997 or early 1998.

- (f) European Funding for events or developments will be dealt with on a 'project by project' basis. The Council are asked to note that a number of the proposals for events and celebrations are considered to be well placed to attract European funding.

3.3 Liaison With Community Groups and Organisations

The following organisations have been informally consulted about the proposals:-

Business Association Network; Angus Business Shop; Rotary Clubs; The Round Table/Inner Wheel/Inner Circle Networks; Community Councils; Church Groups; Youth Organisations; AAVO; Angus Sports Council; Ethnic Groups; Age Concern; Schools and School Boards; WRVS Network; Under 8's Groups; SPPA. There are still many organisations who need to be and should be consulted on this matter.

Support from all these organisations has been universal, with the vast majority expressing enthusiasm and a willingness to play a full role. It is not envisaged that these organisations will contribute towards a central pot of money for events or projects but would raise funds within their local area to support any events or projects with relevance to their organisation and/or area.

3.4 Financial Burdens and Opportunities for Angus Council

(a) Pump Priming

It is suggested that Angus Council commit a sum towards preparing for the millennium celebrations in the 1998/99 financial year. This would allow for the provision of full time officer support, provide confidence for prospective partners in respect of projects, and will establish credibility with the Millennium Commission in securing funding support. In the forthcoming financial year, it is suggested that a sum of £46,000 be made available to support the initiative.

(b) Property

Preliminary discussions with Community Millennium groups have indicated an interest in utilising Council premises such as Halls, schools and sports/leisure centres. Should the Council wish to allow Community groups the use of its properties for Millennium celebrations, consideration will have to be given to issues such as staffing, security, cleaning, booking policies and arrangements; and not least charging policy. There may well be an expectation that such facilities should be made available free of charge for such an auspicious occasion.

To date, the Cultural Services Department have accepted advance bookings for halls in Forfar, Kirriemuir and Montrose for the 31st December 1999. As things stand, the lessee will be charged the usual booking fee. These reservations comply with the Departmental policy of only accepting bookings up to two years in advance.

The Education Department have a policy of not accepting bookings more than a year in advance. This ties in with the annual review of charges. Currently no bookings have been taken for Education properties.

Recreation Services have no reservations policy other than for Carnoustie in respect of the Open in 1999. No advance bookings have been reported. Charges are reviewed annually.

Given the Council's wish to engage with Community Groups across Angus with a view to co-ordinating Millennium celebrations, it is recommended that the issues of property reservations and charging be remitted to the current Millennium Steering Committee for further consideration. In the meantime, to ensure equitable access to properties for Community organisations, it is further recommended that all bookings for the Millennium be put on hold until a policy is approved by the Council.

(c) Revenue Expenditure

If the Council proceeds with the appointment of a full time co-ordinator for the Millennium projects, then this would require to be financed from within the current Revenue Budget, and it is suggested that the Corporate Initiative Fund is most appropriate.

The Council may also wish to make contributions to pre project costs.

Such expenditure could be financed from:

1. Contributions from specific departmental Revenue Budgets i.e. the service most closely related to an expenditure item;
2. The Corporate Initiatives Budget within Miscellaneous Services;
3. Where appropriate, from the relevant Common Good Fund;
4. Contributions from other parties and/or fund raising by the general public which would reduce the input required from the Council.

(d) Capital Expenditure

The Council may itself meet capital expenditure costs in respect of Millennium projects or could provide capital grants to other bodies.

Such expenditure could be financed from:

1. specific departmental Capital Budgets i.e. the service which most closely relates to an expenditure item;
2. a separate Millennium projects programme within the General Services Capital Budget, if the Council were so minded to establish such a programme;
3. where appropriate, from the relevant Common Good Fund;
4. the Local Challenge Fund where the project is in line with established criteria;
5. the Repairs and Renewals Fund where a project is of replacement in nature;
6. contributions from other parties and/or fund raising by the general public which would reduce the input required from the Council.

3.4 Management

The Management Team unanimously recommend that the Council consider the appointment of a specialist to manage the diverse workload envisaged as part of celebrating the Millennium as outlined in this report. The Management Team envisage the need for an internal group of officers to work with such an appointee.

There is a need for the appointee to build up a network of local groups and individuals. There is also a need to have a reasonable run in time, particularly when preparing and securing sponsorship for some of the larger events. This introductory work could well be incorporated with the development and support of certain local events planned for 1998 and 1999. It is therefore recommended that the Council make such an appointment on a fixed term basis as soon as possible.

3.5 Date of the Millennium

There has been considerable debate both internally and outwith the Council as to the actual date of the Millennium. In terms of this report it is suggested that Millennium celebrations commence on the 31st December 1999, continuing until 31st December 2000.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations contained within this report would commit the Council to financing the post of a Millennium Celebration Co-ordinator at a cost of £26,600 in financial year 1998/99 (assuring a June start date) and £31,900 thereafter in a full financial year.

In addition, it is recommended that the Council agree in principle subject to more detailed proposals being brought forward, initially make available a further £20,000 during the financial year 1998/99 to support the preparatory work for the local Millennium celebrations. The total cost in 1998/99 of £46,600 can be met from the Corporate Initiatives Budget provision with Miscellaneous Other Services. Future years Revenue Budgets will require to take account of the ongoing expenditure associated with this initiative.

5. CONCLUSION

This proposal will ensure that the citizens and communities of Angus are given the support to develop and implement events suitable to celebrate the dawning of the new Millennium.

6. CONSULTATION

All Chief Officers have been consulted during the preparation of this report

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.

GJS/BAK

20 March 1998

E:GJS/Reports/Celebrating the Millennium