

**ANGUS COUNCIL****POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 1998****THE HAIRST - Funding****REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL SERVICES****ABSTRACT**

To report on progress with The Hairst, the Angus cultural and heritage festival and to identify funding sources.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

To agree to vire funding from property maintenance to meet the costs of the festival.

**2. BACKGROUND**

The Council (M16/97) agreed that an Angus Cultural Festival be arranged to promote the artistic heritage of this part of Scotland. The intention was to attract visitors to the events so promoting the Council's key themes of promoting Angus and contributing to economic development. In addition the theme of partnership was to be developed through the involvement of local arts groups in the festival.

It was noted that 1998 would be used as a trial run with the intention to build up through 1999 to a major festival in the millennium year.

**3. PRESENT POSITION**

The festival is to be known as The Hairst and arrangements have progressed well. A wide ranging programme will cover - folk rock, drama walks in Forfar and Montrose, ceilidhs, exhibitions, children's events and workshops and two broadcast debates on Radio Tay. A series of classical and current Scottish films will be screened. With Historic Scotland an afternoon of music will be held in Edzell Castle and at House of Dun an evening of poetry and song will be staged. The event will end on 30<sup>th</sup> June with a gala evening involving Angus groups hosted by Ann Lorne Gillies.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

It was calculated that the net cost to run the festival should not exceed £24,000 but no allowance had been made in the Cultural Services budget for this event. The Directors of Finance and Cultural Services were asked to investigate possible sources of funding.

As many of the events will be held in the European Funding Objective 2 area of Angus an application for funding was made to Upland Tayside Leader II and a sum of £10,920 has been awarded from that source. It is subject to some conditions in terms of audience coverage which we hope to be able to satisfy.

In order to secure the balance of £24,000 funding the Director of Finance has suggested that £24,000 be vired from the Cultural Services planned property maintenance budget and an equal sum be met from the Property Repairs and Renewal Fund. In this regard budget provision for planned maintenance in 1998/99 for the Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell can be vired to meet the £24,000 net expenditure. Reference is made to R605/98 on "Supplementary Funding Provision for urgent Repairs to the Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell. Income from Leader II and ticket receipts would be counted against expenditure and the cost to Repairs and Renewals would be at maximum £24,000.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law and Administration and Director of Property Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

This years festival will be the first of an ongoing programme and will assist in the promotion locally and nationally of Angus. The approval of this funding package will secure the financial position for this year.

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.

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26.5.98  
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