

Angus Council**Policy & Resources Committee – 8 September 1998****Strategy for Celebrating the Millennium in Angus****Report by the Chief Executive****ABSTRACT**

This report advises Members of progress made to date, with regard to 'Celebrating the Millennium in Angus'.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee note and approve the contents of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

Members are referred to Report No 345/98 which they approved on 24 March 1998.

A Millennium Co-ordinator has now been appointed whose remit is to progress a programme of events for the Burghs of Angus under one corporate theme.

This report sets out details related to:-

- (i) objectives;
- (ii) structures/management;
- (iii) the Central Theme for the Millennium; and
- (iv) funding Community Initiatives in respect of the Millennium.

1. OBJECTIVES

It is suggested that the overall objectives of the celebration should be to:

- (a) devise initiatives which can be used as a promotional vehicle for Angus;

- (b) maximise financial leverage from initial investments made by the Council;
- (c) promote a sense of unity between all communities across Angus;
- (d) attempt to leave behind a legacy of considerable benefit and lasting significance for the local community, in keeping with entering the new Millennium;
- (e) promote the Council's vision and agenda for the future.

1. STRUCTURE/MANAGEMENT

It is vital for success that all bodies are on board, and that the whole year is approached in a co-ordinated manner.

It is therefore proposed that there are **FOUR** specific Groupings formed, made up of representatives from the various organisations and bodies in Angus.

(a) Millennium Steering Group

This Group is made up of the following:

Provost Mrs Duncan (Chair)

Three Elected Members - (it is suggested that Cllr David Selfridge, the Chair of Angus Ahead be included in the Council's representation).

Representative of Tayside Health Board

Representative of Angus & Dundee Tourist Board

Representative from the Federation of Angus & Dundee Chamber of Commerce

Michael Blair, Clerk to the Lieutenancy

Representative from the Voluntary Sector

Inspector Rod Bowman, Tayside Police, Eastern Division

Representative from local Business

Council Officers:

Chief Executive, Policy Officer, Director of Social Work, Director of Cultural Services, Director of Recreation, Public Relations Officer, Millennium Co-ordinator.

Members are asked to note that S.E.T. have declined an invitation to take part in the Steering Group given that they do not intend to make any financial contribution.

The Steering Group's remit is as follows:

- to develop a central theme based upon the Unique Selling Points for Angus;
- to approve the programme of events which will have local, national and international appeal;
- to decide which events to support;
- to agree the funding packages;
- to act a co-promoter for the events;
- to ensure maximum publicity.

It is envisaged that the Steering Group will normally meet quarterly.

(b) MILLENNIUM TASK FORCE

This Group will be structured from within the Council, and will comprise one representative from each Department, with the exception of Property Services, Personnel, Law & Administration and Information Technology, who will provide representation on an 'as required' basis:

Sheena Reekie, Community Education
Ian Ross, Recreation Services
Neil Prentice, Economic Development
Colin Dakers, Cultural Services
Jervis Browne, Environment
Duncan Inglis, Contract Services
Ken McKay, Education
Derek Nisbet, Roads
John Morrow, Housing
Ian Lorimer, Finance
Ian Cairns, Social Work
Roy Madden, Planning & Transport

This Group's remit will be:

- to develop the full programme of events and initiatives;
- to draw together funding for each scheme;
- to manage the funds;
- to co-ordinate the diverse series of events in a corporate manner.

The Millennium Task Force will meet monthly, commencing August 1998.

(c) COMMUNITY GROUP FOR THE MILLENNIUM

This Group will be made up of Representatives from:

Voluntary Organisations from Rural Angus and each Burgh

Community Councils

Retailer's and Business Associations

The purpose of meetings with the Community Group for the Millennium will be to advise these community based organisations of the progress of the strategy/plans for the Millennium, and to take on board any suggestions from these Community Groups.

Meetings will also be held with Millennium Groups in each of the Burghs, towns or other areas.

(d) SPECIFIC PROJECT GROUPINGS

These Groups will be made up of employees from various Departments of the Council, who will be instrumental in progressing individual events for the Millennium.

A meeting of each Group will be held with the Millennium Co-ordinator on a monthly basis, or more regularly as needs be.

5. THE CENTRAL THEME FOR THE MILLENNIUM

The Millennium programme in Angus should be comprehensive, diverse and challenging. In addition, there is a need to ensure that a set of developments and events at Angus wide or local level are in place which complement existing or planned activities.

It is suggested that the celebrations are themed around the central concept of:

“The Culture and Heritage of Angus”

The theme should take in various strands and may be interpreted broadly, to include:

- (a) building on the historical local strengths such as fishing at Arbroath, agriculture, the Abbey, the Picts and Peter Pan;
- (b) sports activity in Angus, particularly inter-burgh;
- (c) cultural and arts activity in Angus;
- (d) twin-town possibilities to further our European partnerships;
- (e) environmental quality - proximity to the Coast and the Glens; and
- (f) built environment - emphasising the uniqueness of the area and its towns

The projects we progress for the Millennium under the theme of The Culture and Heritage of Angus should also encompass the general millennial principles:

- (a) have a clear purpose for being held in the Year 2000;
- (b) encourage integration, innovation and involvement;
- (c) be educational and entertaining;
- (d) involve new activities or new developments;
- (e) be of lasting benefit; and
- (f) involve community partnership.

6. FUNDING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

It is suggested that the Council's £20K, set aside as initial provision of resources for the Millennium festivities, be used to assist approaches from genuine Community organisations to help them progress their own ideas. Requests below £200 should be considered at Officer level, with requests for funds over £200 being considered by the Millennium Steering Group.

Members are asked to note that a bid for a sum of money, from policy-led budgeting, of £5,000 has been made in respect of consultancy fees, which may be required for special projects.

The Council's Partnership Officer has compiled a Contact List of funding sources which will be given to local voluntary organisations, to help them apply for funding Millennium projects.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

The Directors of Law & Administration, Finance, Cultural Services, and Recreation Services 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 on to any material extent in preparing this paper.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

WDS/YEG

27 August 1998

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