

ANGUS COUNCIL

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE**

**30 SEPTEMBER 1999
14 OCTOBER 1999**

SUBJECT: ANGUS DESIGN AWARDS SCHEME 2000

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

<p>Abstract: This report outlines the development of a locally based Design Awards Scheme for Angus.</p>

1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the launch of the Angus Design Awards Scheme in Spring 2000, with the inaugural awards in late Summer/early Autumn 2000.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A number of local authorities throughout Scotland run locally based, design award schemes to promote quality in the built environment. Entries are assessed by a panel of judges in various categories such as new build, conversion and conservation. Schemes are nominated for consideration by members of the public, or by those who have a professional interest in the development.
- 2.2 Angus has participated in the National Civic Trust Awards Scheme but has not, to date, run an awards scheme to promote excellence solely within the Angus area.
- 2.3 The benefits of any such award scheme are:-
- the promotion of quality design and craftsmanship;
 - raising awareness of built environment issues amongst the wider public;
 - furthering social inclusion by inviting public comment on the built environment.
- 2.4 Specific areas of development can be considered for an award, such as access for the disabled, restoration of shopfronts and good conservation projects. The way in which the scheme relates to its surroundings can also merit an award. Landscaping, for example, is often an essential component of design quality.

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Council initiates a pilot awards scheme in Spring 2000 with a view to making awards later that year. Successive award schemes would be run thereafter, probably on a two-yearly cycle. The timescale between each round will be determined by sufficient numbers of good entries. Entries will be invited from

property owners, architects, developers and the general public, through letters of invitation, notices, and press advertisements.

- 3.2 There will be no entry fee (there is a £124 entry fee for the National Civic Trust Awards Scheme). Good publicity could be generated for Angus and for the designers, architects, clients and crafts people involved, through local media coverage.
- 3.3 Entries would be for projects within the Angus area, small or large scale, which have been completed during the preceding four year period, i.e. from the date Angus Council came into being on 1 April 1996 to 31 March 2000. It is suggested that in the pilot Awards Scheme no categories be specified, awards being made simply on the merit of the entry. Applicants will be asked to outline why they feel the entry merits an award; the application form will contain guidelines to assist applicants.
- 3.4 Judging of the above categories will be by an assessment panel representing both lay and professional opinion, and including the Convener of the Development Control Committee. Factors taken into consideration will include innovative design, accessibility for people with disabilities, sustainable design, construction, craft skills and good conservation practice.
- 3.5 Entries for the Awards Scheme would be submitted on a completed application form accompanied by a display board incorporating text, drawings, photographs etc. and details of the client/architect/contractors.
- 3.6 The winner of each category (assuming there are sufficient quality entries) would receive an Award Certificate. Additional commendations may also be made at the judges' discretion. It is anticipated that an exhibition of each year's entries could then be put on display at Council offices, and local libraries after the Awards presentation. This could further stimulate public debate on the built environment.
- 3.7 The associated publicity and prestige of the Awards Scheme will provide an incentive to create quality in the built environment of Angus.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The exact costs of running the Award Scheme are unknown, at present. It is anticipated that the main expenditure will be:-
 - printing and production costs for the application pack, award certificates and framing costs;
 - the presentation ceremony in a prestigious venue, e.g. Hospitalfield House;
 - expenses for the Assessment Panel members.
- 4.2 The final costs will be determined by the number of actual awards and commendations but it is not anticipated to exceed £1500 each year the Scheme operates (probably on a two-yearly cycle). The cost of the Awards Scheme will be met from the Conservation Budget. The cost to the Council in terms of staff time is relatively small, when weighed against the benefits of the scheme.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Chief Executive and the Acting Director of Cultural Services and the Directors of Finance, Law & Administration and Property Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 A successfully run Architectural Awards Scheme for Angus will encourage and reward good examples of design and workmanship. The Scheme will generate an awareness of the contribution that good quality design can make to the overall environment, and further the Council's aims of promoting environmental quality and furthering social inclusion.

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/KW/IAL
21 September 1999

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport

