

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

20 APRIL 1999

SUBJECT: ARBROATH ABBEY DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

**Abstract: This report advises the Committee on progress made in taking forward the development of visitor facilities at Arbroath Abbey.**

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee notes the current position with regard to the development of visitor facilities at Arbroath Abbey as outlined in this report.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Members will recall that, in March of this year, the Director of Property Services in consultation with the Director of Planning & Transport was authorised to commission design consultants to prepare more detailed designs for the Abbey. The Committee also agreed to meet 75% of the associated fees subject to Scottish Enterprise Tayside meeting the balance.

**3 CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 A short list of six design consultants was drawn up and invited to tender for the project. All six were subsequently interviewed by an interview panel comprising representatives of Angus Council (Planning and Property Services), Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Historic Scotland. The H.M. Treasury Guidance on the appointment of consultants was used to evaluate the consultants. This aims to ensure that consultants are appointed on the basis of value for money and not lowest price alone.
- 3.2 The successful design team is lead by Simpson & Brown, Architects. They are based in Edinburgh and have extensive experience in working with historic buildings and dealing with Heritage Lottery Funding.

**4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 As members will be aware, Heritage Lottery Funding is essential to make up the shortfall caused by the withdrawal of Historic Scotland capital funding. The design team is currently preparing an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which will be submitted by the end of April.

- 4.2 Due to the scale of the project i.e. over £500,000 project cost, it will be necessary to go through a two-stage process. Stage one is essentially approval in principle and the outcome should be known by the autumn at the latest. Depending on the outcome of the H.L.F. application and the timing of the stage two process in relation to E.R.D.F. funding, it may be necessary to review the funding package. This will be reported on in due course.

## **5 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law & Administration and Director of Property 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 the above Report.

AA/RM/KW/IAL  
12 April 1999

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