

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

8 JUNE 1999

SUBJECT: TAYSIDE NATIVE WOODLANDS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

Abstract: Angus Council is a funding member of Tayside Native Woodlands. This report recommends that the Council continue to contribute towards the core funding of the company.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Angus Council contribute £5,000 towards the core funding of Tayside Native Woodlands for 1999/2000, this expenditure to be met from the Planning Department's Revenue (Rural Affairs) budget subject to the conditions outlined in this report.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Tayside Native Woodlands (TNW) was incorporated as a company on 26 July 1996 and is now a registered charity. The aim of the company is "to ensure the appropriate multi-purpose management, including expansion, of Tayside's Native Woodlands as an integral part of forestry and rural land use for public benefit". Angus Council is a funding member of the company and the Council's Countryside Officer is Angus Council's nominated Director on the Board of the company. (report No. 219/96 refers). The other funding members are Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Forestry Authority Scotland.

3 TAYSIDE NATIVE WOODLANDS

- 3.1 TNW currently employs three staff; two project Officers and an Administrator (part-time). An independent Chairman has also been co-opted onto the Board. An Executive Summary of TNW's Business Plan 1996/97 to 2000/2001 is attached as Appendix A.

- 3.2 During the last year TNW's works has included:-

- The continued implementation of the Native Woodland Action Plan for Tayside. In particular the Angus Glens Birchwoods Project.
- As part of the Broadleaved Produce Utilisation Project, the preparation of a report on the potential to generate electricity from the Broadleaved Woodland Resource in Tayside.
- The hosting of a series of training seminars and workshops.
- 23 information publications known as 'Woodnotes' now available.
- Established a collaborative marketing project involving Perthshire estates.

- 3.3 Copies of the first Tayside Native Woodlands annual report was circulated to members last autumn. Copies of the second annual report will be circulated to Members this summer.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Angus Council contributed £5,000 towards core funding of TNW during 1997/98 and 1998/99. It is recommended that Angus Council make a further contribution of £5,000 for the year 1999/2000 from the Planning Department's Revenue (Rural Affairs) Budget. The Business Plan also includes a framework document which sets out the administrative and financial arrangements between the funding partners. The framework document has previously been agreed subject to three additional conditions:-

1. Angus Council will be notified immediately of all known or suspected frauds regardless of the value of possible or probable losses in excess of £1,000.
2. The Auditor appointed to examine the annual accounts must be a member of a recognised professional accounting body and must also be a registered Auditor.
3. Proposed contracts in excess of £5,000 including contributable VAT, which relates specifically to operations in whole or in part by Angus Council's grant, shall be discussed in advance with the Council's representative. Further, Angus Council shall be notified in writing of any single tender contract proposals in excess of £1,000 and shall be advised why the contract was not placed on a competitive basis.

5 CONSULTATION

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

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The appropriate management and expansion of Tayside's Native Woodland resource is considered highly desirable.
- 6.2 TNW represents an effective means by which Angus Council can contribute to this objective.

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/SJR/KW/IAL
1 June 1999

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport