

Agenda Item No

Report No 815/99

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

26 AUGUST 1999

**SUBJECT: CAIRNGORMS LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN
PROJECT OFFICER**

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

Abstract: This report recommends that Angus Council contributes towards the second year of the Project Officer post.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to contribute up to £2,000 towards the cost of the Project Officer post, subject to the balance of the funding being secured; this expenditure to be met from the Planning & Transport's Revenue Budget for 1999/2000.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Committee of 11 June 1999 agreed to contribute towards the first year of the Project Officer post.
- 2.2 The Committee agreed that the position be reviewed at the end of the first year and to consider at that time the possibility of a further extension of two years (Report No. 641/98 refers).

3 PROJECT OFFICER POST

- 3.1 The post is intended to co-ordinate and develop the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).
- 3.2 The Project Officer post has been the catalyst in the substantial progress made in respect of the Cairngorms LBAP. The principle achievements of the Project Officer has been to evaluate the Biodiversity Audit which went hand-in-hand with the evaluation of local community consultation meetings and reports, comparing and contrasting them with national biodiversity priorities. This culminated in the high profile launch of the LBAP in March 1999 at Castle Grant, Granton-on-Spey. The emphasis of the second year of the post will be to encourage action on the ground through the implementation of Action Plans.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The approximate total annual cost of the post is £40,000. The Cairngorms Partnership, who currently employs the Project Officer is currently seeking funding towards the post. A contribution of £2,000 was made towards the first year of the post. It is similarly recommended that further contribution of £2,000 be made for the second year of the post from the Planning & Transport Department's Revenue Budget, 1999/2000 with the position being reviewed next financial year.

5 CONSULTATION

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

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The appointment of a Project Officer is seen as the most effective means of taking forward the preparation of the Cairngorms LBAP and turning it into positive action on the ground. Contribution towards the post represents very good value for money.

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
20 August 1999

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport