

ANGUS COUNCIL**RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4 March 1999****PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE - 11 MARCH 1999****DOORS OPEN DAY 1999****REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL SERVICES AND PLANNING AND
TRANSPORT POLICY****ABSTRACT**

This report outlines the plans for the Council's participation in the international "Doors Open Day" for September 1999.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to note this report and agree to participation in Doors Open Day in September 1999.

2. BACKGROUND

"Doors Open Day" was introduced to Scotland in 1990 by the Scottish Civic Trust in 1990. It is part of a major public awareness action to mobilise the whole of Europe for the protection of the cultural heritage and is supported by the Council of Europe.

The main aim of the event is to offer everyone the chance to explore, free of charge, monuments and sites, especially those which are not normally open to the general public during weekends in September.

In this way it is hoped to increase the public's knowledge and understanding of our rich built heritage in order that it be protected for future generations.

In 1998 the Council participated for the first time by opening two buildings, Town and County Hall, Forfar and Montrose Town House. This pilot scheme proved successful, attracting over 120 people in total, enough to suggest that taking part again in 1999 with an expanded programme and wider marketing would be worthwhile.

3. PROPOSALS

During weekends in September it is intended to open a number of properties across Angus, which are not normally accessible to the public or which have limited access.

At present, the following buildings are likely to be opened but a number of others are being investigated and the list may be extended

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| Arbroath | Hospitalfield House Mortuary Chapel Signal Tower Museum - Tower |
| Brechin | Town House |
| Forfar | Town & County Hall Balmashanner War memorial |
| Montrose | Archive, Montrose Library William Lamb Studio Old Parish Kirk |

Staff from Cultural Services and Planning and Transport, together with volunteers will be available to guide the public. It is hoped that the involvement of the burgh civic and historical societies will enable more properties to be opened.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Scottish Civic Trust is responsible for the national marketing and promotion of the event, and also for Public Liability Insurance for those properties not normally open to the public.

The relatively small costs to the Council in terms of staff time and local advertising, including an Angus Doors Open Day brochure would be met jointly by the two departments, Cultural Services and Planning and Transport from their revenue budgets.

5. CONSULTATION

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

6. CONCLUSION

“Doors Open Day” has proved to be a highly popular event throughout Scotland. The scheme has raised public awareness of cultural heritage in a positive way and has been a valuable promotional tool.

The project relates very constructively to the Key Themes in the context of promoting Angus and increasing tourism opportunities. In future years Doors Open Day could be part of an ongoing series of promotional events starting in June with the Hairst moving through to Sea Fest in August with September Doors Open Day. That programme would help develop the image of Angus and promote the culture and heritage of the area.

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19/02/99

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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 report.

