

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 27 NOVEMBER 2003

STRATEGIC CHANGE FUNDS FOR MUSEUMS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report advises the Committee of the award of £100,000 from the Scottish Executive's Strategic Change for Museums for improvements to the storage of the Museums, Archives and Local Studies Collection.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of the report

2. BACKGROUND

Angus Council had its seven museums retain museum registration status as part of the Museums Registration Scheme in January 2002 (Report 60/02).

While all our museums met the standard, the Registration Panel felt that there were several areas in which improvements could be made, particularly with the care of our collections. It was suggested that we continue to ensure that the construction of a new store facility remains a priority.

In November 2002 (Report 1381/02) we proposed an innovative project to bring together Archive, Museum and Library Local Studies Services in on building in Forfar. This project was costed and an approach for funding was submitted to the Heritage Lottery fund (HLF) for consideration at its meeting of 2 September 2003.

Unfortunately, although meeting all the criteria for funding the Heritage Lottery fund had insufficient resources to commit to the project. A letter seeking a detailed response was written to HLF in September, and a reply is awaited.

An approach to the Scottish Museums Council for Strategic Change Fund support was also made in order to better organise the collections for both their care and access. Initially this was conditional upon the HLF grant, but on 28 October Scottish Museums Council confirmed the award to Angus Council.

The £100,000 award over two years will enable the Council to employ a Collections Officer who will document and organise the collections in the Museums Store in Forfar. The collections will also be photographed and added to the new computerised documentation system, Adlib. The reorganisation of the collections will also result in them being more accessible in the future, which will greatly assist with public enquiries and exhibitions.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The £100,000 from the Scottish Museums Council will meet all costs of the project over the two years, including the post of Collections Officer. There is no additional cost to Leisure Services.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications associated with this report

5. CONSULTATION

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

JOHN R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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 this report.