

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.....29 MAY 2003

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE.....5 JUNE 2003

11TH SPECIAL OLYMPIC WORLD SUMMER GAMES IRELAND – 21–29TH JUNE 2003

JOINT REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND
THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report advises the Social Work and Health Committee and the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee of the Special Olympic World Summer Games taking place in Ireland from 21-29 June 2003 and of the inclusion of Angus athletes and staff in the Great Britain Team.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health and Environmental and Leisure Services Committees:-

- i) note the participation of social work service users at these games;
- ii) approve the attendance of staff from both departments at the games in a coaching capacity;
- iii) approve granting paid leave to the two members of staff, for fifty percent of the period of absence from work.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Special Olympic World Summer Games take place on a four yearly cycle. These are the first World Games to be held outside the United States of America and will be the largest sporting event in the world in 2003. Seven thousand athletes, three thousand coaches and twenty eight thousand family and friends will attend the games and the competition will be centred around the Greater Dublin area. Great Britain is taking a team of one hundred and ninety three athletes and sixty five support staff. Fifteen athletes and seven staff will come from Tayside Special Olympics. The Great Britain Team will compete in sixteen sports including Aquatics, Athletics, Football and Power Lifting.

3 ANGUS INVOLVEMENT IN THE GREAT BRITAIN TEAM

Angus has six athletes travelling as part of the Great Britain Team. It is proposed that two staff members, Grant Houghton, a Day Centre Officer at Rosehill Resource Centre, Montrose and Laura Smith, Disability Sports Development Officer will travel in a coaching capacity from Angus. It is also proposed that the two staff members be given paid leave of absence for half of the period of their absence at the games. This would be consistent with the decision taken by the Committees to allow staff to attend the last games in North Carolina in 1999 (see Social Work Committee Report No. 398/99).

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Salary and associated costs are already allowed for in the 2003/04 revenue budget for the two named staff and therefore the granting of paid leave to two staff will not generate additional costs within Social Work and Leisure Services Budgets.

Tayside Special Olympics Group funds our athletes travel, accommodation and team kit with athletes being asked to contribute twenty per cent (from their own resources) of the cost. The travel, accommodation, etc costs for the two Angus Council employees are met by Tayside and Great Britain Special Olympics Groups.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

6 CONSULTATION

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

7 CONCLUSION

This report advises the Social Work and Health Committee and the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee of the inclusion of athletes from Angus in the Great Britain team to attend the Special Olympic World Summer Games in Ireland from 21-29 June, and seeks approval for the attendance of two council employees in the team as coaches.

J R Zimny
Director of Leisure Services

R Peat
Acting Director of Social Work

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.