Abstract: This Report asks the Committee to agree to the request from the Caledonian Railway Company that Angus Council fund its contribution to the above signage programme.

1 RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee

i) note that the Caledonian Railway Company operated by volunteers does not have the resources to fund a contribution to the Brechin Gateway Signage.

ii) note the Council's interest as owner and landlord of the Brechin Caledonian Railway and agree to fund the provision of signage at a cost of £740.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Director of Roads is in the process of implementing the Brechin Gateway Signage programme and is seeking contributions from all the tourist attractions to be featured on the signs including the Caledonian Railway.

2.2 The Caledonian Railway Company has written to the Director of Roads indicating that it does not have the funds to cover the requested contribution.

3 WAY AHEAD

3.1 The Caledonian Railway has made significant progress as a volunteer supported organisation in developing both the facilities and visitor numbers over the past 3 years. The 'company' priority for deployment of scarce resources at its disposal does not extend to signage at this point in time.

3.2 Angus Council is of course the land owner and landlord of the land which the railway occupies and, given the development and marketing work carried out, the railway is seen as a key attraction in Brechin with future development potential.

3.3 It is felt to be crucial that the Caledonian Railway features in the new signage programme and to this end it would be appropriate for the Council to meet the cost.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This one-off cost of £740 can be met from the Economic Development Revenue Budget 2004/2005.
5  HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

6  CONSULTATION

6.1 The Directors of Law and Administration, Finance and Roads were consulted on the terms of this Report.

7  CONCLUSION

7.1 The Caledonian Railway is a key attraction in Brechin and should be included within the new signage. As owner and landlord of the railway the Council has an interest in its future viability. Given the railway company’s lack of funds it is felt that the Council should meet this relatively minor sum to ensure prominence for the Caledonian Railway on the new Brechin Gateway signs.

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.

DV/SW/MM
02 March 2004

A B Watson OBE
Chief Executive