Abstract: A request for support to run the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme in Tayside this year has been received from the Arbroath based co-ordinator of the Scottish Programme. This report provides background to the programme and informs the Committee of the support level agreed by the Economic Development Manager.

1 RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the decision to support the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme placement of 18 students in businesses throughout Tayside.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Shell Technology Enterprise Programme matches undergraduates with small firms looking for particular skills to resolve issues that they are facing. The programme in Scotland has developed from a relatively small base three years ago and now works across Scotland from an Arbroath office base. This expansion has proved possible through the attraction of funding support form the Scottish Executive, Scottish Enterprise Network and from some Local Authorities. The Scottish winner last year helped a pipeline engineering business in Aberdeen to develop a proto-type tool for inspection, maintenance and cleaning of pipeline. The resultant design passed the testing process and is ready for manufacture.

3 PROPOSAL

3.1 A total of £12,960 support has been sought for the placement of 18 students in businesses throughout Tayside for a period of eight to ten weeks during 2004. The proposal would be to identify six companies in each of the three Local Authority areas. Funding has been sought from Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Angus, Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils, as follows:

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<thead>
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<th>£</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SET</td>
<td>6,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angus Council</td>
<td>2,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundee City Council</td>
<td>2,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perth &amp; Kinross Council</td>
<td>2,160</td>
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4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost to Angus Council of supporting the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme for 2004 is £2,160. This sum can be met from the Economic Development Revenue budget for 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 Finance and Law & Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The STEP programme has shown to be very valuable to companies participating and to the students, many of whom it has been demonstrated find employment with the placement companies. The contribution of Angus Council towards the programme will be recognised in all publicity material. It is intended that officers from the Economic Development Unit make contact with Angus companies participating to get a direct view of the value of the programme to them to assess the value of continuing support for future years.

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/NP/MM
26 April 2004

A B Watson OBE
Chief Executive