

ANGUS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE RESOURCES & CENTRAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

11 AUGUST 2005

SUBJECT: ARBROATH SEA FEST 2005 – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

<p>Abstract: This report describes a request for support from the Arbroath SEA FEST Company for SEA FEST 2005, to be held on 20 & 21 August 2005.</p>
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1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee agree to financial support to the Arbroath SEA FEST Company of up to £4,000 made up of a grant of £2,000 and underwriting of expenses of up to a further £2,000 should it be necessary.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Arbroath SEA FEST has been run annually since 1997 and was originally led and organised by Angus Council staff. Responsibility has gradually passed to the community through the Arbroath SEA FEST company and for the last five years the event has been organised by part-time managers and an event management company.
- 2.2 As reported in Report 731/04, financial assistance of £5,000 was requested to support SEA FEST 2004 and this request was approved at the meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee on 8 June 2004. The same report made the condition that future funding from Angus Council be reduced progressively with no more than £4,000 being offered in 2005.
- 2.3 Report No 111/05 on a Policy for Support of Tourism and Promotional Related Events was submitted to the meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee on 27 January 2005. This proposed a maximum grant of £2,000 to SEA FEST in 2005/06. However until July 2005 no request for funding was actually received. An urgent request has now been received, hence the need for this item to be considered by this Executive Sub-committee.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Arbroath SEA FEST has been highly successful in promoting Arbroath and Angus, and in attracting visitors to the area, and thus has had the full support of Angus Council, meeting as it does the aims of the Angus Ahead Campaign. 2004 was the most successful year with around 25,000 visitors over two days.
- 3.2 A letter has now been received from the SEA FEST Company seeking financial support for SEA FEST 2005, the lateness of the application being due to the ill-health and consequent resignation of the former Secretary. In the letter, the SEA FEST Company has requested a grant of £2,000 with underwriting guarantees of up to a further £2,000, to be called upon if other fundraising is unsuccessful. This will enable

the planned programme of activities to go ahead, rather than a reduced programme if the income cannot be guaranteed.

- 3.3 Despite financial difficulties being experienced by the Economic Development Unit with projected property revenue being lower than in previous years, it is estimated the sums requested can be met from the Economic Development Revenue Budget for 2005/06.
- 3.4 It is therefore recommended that a grant of £2,000 be offered to the Arbroath SEA FEST Company with a further £2,000 to be offered to underwrite event activities, and subject to the following conditions:
- continuing efforts must be made to raise funds through sponsorship or other means, to minimise the need to call on the £2,000 underwriting;
 - the money will be paid in arrears and on sight of receipted invoices. A statement of income and expenditure must be submitted once the event's finances have been finalised;
 - Angus Council must be mentioned as a major sponsor on publicity material, and press releases must be cleared by the Economic Development Unit; and
 - no more than £2,000 in total will be offered in 2006, made up of a grant of £1,000 and further underwriting of up to £1,000.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Acceptance of this report will involve expenditure of up to £4,000 in 2005/06. This can be accommodated within the Economic Development Revenue budget.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Director of Law & Administration and Acting Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Arbroath SEA FEST is successful in raising the profile of Angus but still needs financial support, albeit it on a reducing scale. It is proposed to offer a grant of £2,000 and underwriting of expenses up to a further £2,000, subject to certain written conditions.

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/ES/MM

08 August 2005

David Sawers

Chief Executive