

ANGUS COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

21 APRIL 2009

**SUBJECT: ANGUS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

<p>Abstract: This report and attached appendices (1 and 2) advises the Committee of the Annual Newsletter and Statement of Accounts which have been received from Angus Environmental Trust in respect of the year 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008.</p>
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1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of the Angus Environmental Trust Annual Newsletter and Statement of Accounts.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Landfill Tax Regulations 1996 and Landfill Tax (Amendment) Regulations 1999 established the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme recently renamed the Landfill Communities Fund. Since October 1996 landfill site operators have been liable for payment of landfill tax based on the tonnage of material landfilled. At the same time they have the option of offsetting part of the tax by making payments to environmental bodies. Angus Council as landfill operator has availed itself of this alternative course of action by making payments to Angus Environmental Trust.

2.2 Angus Environmental Trust, a company limited by guarantee, was enrolled with Entrust, the regulator of the scheme under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme in September 1997. The Trust entered into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Council in 2001 and, in accordance with the requirements of the SLA, a copy of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts have been submitted annually to members for information.

2.3 Following the changes to the scheme in 2003 and the consequent drop in income, the Trust put in place detailed assessment procedures and evaluation criteria for the awarding of funding. All projects are required to be directly for public benefit, they must be located within Angus and priority is given to support projects which are community led. As a Distributive Environmental Body the Trust also offers support to other Environmental Bodies promoting projects within Angus.

3 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

3.1 The 11th Annual General Meeting of the Angus Environmental Trust duly took place on Thursday 5 February 2009. A copy of the Annual Newsletter and Statement of Accounts for the year from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 are appended to this report. During the period covered by these accounts the Council in its role as landfill site operator paid £89,409 under the revised Landfill Communities Fund

(LTCS) to the Trust to offset part of its landfill tax liability. The Trust received no contributions from private operators for this period.

- 3.2 From inception to 30 September 2007 Angus Environmental Trust has approved funding for a variety of projects in the Angus area to the value of £1,377,970 and has paid or accrued £1,100,608 in respect of these projects. Over the last 12 years the support from Angus Environmental Trust and the Landfill Communities Fund has enabled projects to be undertaken within Angus with a total value in excess of £8.5 million. Details of the most recent projects supported together with a list of all others are contained within the Annual Newsletter.
- 3.3 The balance sheet indicates that at 30 September 2008, Angus Environmental Trust had current assets of £766,331 of which some £277,362 has been committed to identified projects and £8,633 to pay expenses, leaving uncommitted funds of £480,336.
- 3.4 The profit and loss account indicates that during the year, the Trust received income under the LCF (LTCS) of £89,409, and bank interest of £30,856. £51,321 was paid out in respect of projects also expenses of £11,061 (including corporation tax of £5,105) were incurred during the year. The surplus between income and expenditure for the year of £62,988 (before tax) is carried forward and identified in 3.3 above.
- 3.5 As advised previously it is no longer necessary for fully audited accounts to be prepared. The financial statements have therefore been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2006).
- 3.6 In March 2008, Charles Brown retired from Scottish Enterprise and resigned the position on the Board which he had held for four years. Stuart Wilson took over the position as a Director of the Trust and nominee of Scottish Enterprise. Also in March 2008, Kevin Murphy resigned from the Board with Stuart Young taking over the position as a Director of the Trust and nominee of Angus College. No changes were made to the remainder of the Board of Directors of Angus Environmental Trust which comprise the nominee from Scottish Natural Heritage and Angus Council.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for the Council arising directly as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

7.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Single Outcome Agreement for Angus.

12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

- The importance and benefits to society of the environment is recognised.

13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity

- Growth in tourism in Angus is achieved.
- A good quality of life is enjoyed by all in Angus.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance, and Head of Law & Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9 CONCLUSION

9.1 The main aims of the Trust are to distribute landfill tax funds to help encourage and fund local community groups and organisations to protect and enhance the environment of Angus through projects that meet the criteria of both the Trust and the Landfill Communities Fund. These priorities are consistent with the Council's corporate priorities and have facilitated many worthwhile projects, which meet both the needs and aspirations of the people of Angus as well as providing benefit and enjoyment for visitors.

ERIC S. LOWSON
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

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.

P&T/GEP/IAL
11 March 2009