

ANGUS COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

21 APRIL 2009

**SUBJECT: CAIRNGORMS LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN
PROJECT OFFICER AND BIODIVERSITY GRANT SCHEME**

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Abstract: This report recommends that Angus Council contributes towards both the Project Officer post and the Cairngorms Biodiversity Grant Scheme.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee –

1. agree to continue to contribute £2,421 towards the cost of the Project Officer post up to the end of March 2010 and £1,000 towards the Cairngorms Biodiversity Grant Scheme; and
2. note that this expenditure to be met from the Planning and Transport 2009/10 Revenue Budget.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Committee of 28 August 2008 agreed to contribute £2,350 and £1,000 towards the Project Officer post and Cairngorms Biodiversity Grant Scheme respectively for the financial year (report No. 797/08 refers).

3 PROJECT OFFICER POST AND CAIRNGORMS BIODIVERSITY GRANT SCHEME

- 3.1 The Project Officer post is necessary for maintaining the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) partnership. The partnership although independent of the National Park will have a key role in the delivery of both the LBAP and the National Park Plan. The Project Officer will continue to facilitate the delivery of the LBAP and encourage participation from the community.
- 3.2 The cost of the Project Officer's post in 2009/010 is £40,346. The proposed funding package for the post is set out in the table below:-

	2009/2010 £
SNH	14,121
CNPA	18,962
Aberdeenshire	2,421
Highland	2,421
Angus	2,421
TOTAL	40,346

- 3.3 It is recommended that the Committee agree to contribute £2,421 (6%) towards the Project Officer post in 2009/10.
- 3.4 For the last three years, Angus Council has contributed £1,000 per year to the Cairngorms Biodiversity Grant Scheme. During the first two years grants awarded to projects within Angus total £9,831. However, during 2008/09 there were no awards of grant within Angus. This is considered in part to be due to the need to encourage projects within Angus to come forward, but also what some considered to be an overly onerous LEADER application process. The application process for 2009/10 is to be streamlined and further promotion of the scheme for Angus is intended. It is therefore considered worthwhile that Angus Council continues to contribute towards the grant scheme for 2009/10.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The contribution of £2,421 towards the Project Officer post for 2009/10 and £1,000 towards the Biodiversity Grant Scheme will be met from the 2009/10 Planning and Transport Revenue Budget.

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.

8 CONSULTATION

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

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/SJR/IAL/KW
8 April 2009