

ANGUS COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES – 19 NOVEMBER 2009

APPLICATION FOR SEASIDE AWARDS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

ABSTRACT: This report relates to continuing with the Blue Flag application for Montrose Beach and to continue with an application for a Rural Seaside Award for Carnoustie Beach and to make new applications for Rural Seaside Award at Lunan Bay and Arbroath West Links for award period June to September 2010.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree:

- (i) To make an application for 2010 for a Blue Flag at Montrose Beach;
- (ii) To make a renewed application for 2010 for a Rural Seaside Award at Carnoustie Beach;
- (iii) To make new applications for 2010 for Rural Seaside Award at Lunan Bay and Arbroath West Links;
- (iv) To make an application to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) for Monifieth Beach as a new site under the bathing water directive 2006/7/EC as from 2011 to allow an application to be made for a Rural Seaside Award.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Blue Flag programme is administered in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). The Beach Awards and Coastal Campaigns are also administered in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful and in two categories; Resort and Rural.

Resort – A total of 30 criteria must be met. Resort Seaside Awards beaches are usually actively promoted to encourage visitors and are within easy access of developed facilities. The resort beach typically provide toilets, public transport, first aid, access and facilities for disabled people, information boards, maps, appropriate safety management and excellent standards of cleanliness.

Rural – A minimum of 15 criteria must be met, Rural Seaside Award beaches are usually not as developed as Resort Seaside Award ones. They often only have basic facilities and access can be down steep steps or across dunes. They must be clean and promote sustainable behaviour on information boards, provide maps and have appropriate safety management, Community involvement is also encouraged.

Water Quality – All award beaches to be eligible for entry to the awards scheme the bathing water associated with the beach must have attained at least the mandatory standard as outlined in the Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC. The results of the current season's water quality monitoring and the standard of, at least, the previous three years (where available) must be posted at the beach.

In addition to Montrose Beach six other Scottish beaches were awarded the Blue Flag in 2009. These beaches all achieved excellent water quality; provide good facilities, environmental education activities and high levels of cleanliness meeting 29 criteria these beaches will typically provide toilets, first aid, disabled access facilities, information and maps. They are all supervised and ideally have lifeguards present during the peak season.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Montrose Beach has retained a Blue Flag Award status since 2005 and reference is made to report 1374/02 of the Recreation and Culture Services Committee when approval was given to submit an application for the Resort Seaside award and also report 315/04 of the Environmental and Leisure Services Committee when approval was given to progress to Blue Flag Award in 2005.

The demands in meeting the Blue Flag Award 29 strict criteria has become more difficult to maintain during the award period June to September. Scotland Beautiful (KSB) staff make unannounced assessment visits to ensure compliance with the criteria, if not met the Council would be required to lower the flag until standards were achieved again.

Keep Scotland Beautiful have indicated that they are currently happy with the monitoring arrangements of the Montrose beach by seasonal attendants for Blue Flag status, however future requirements may include the provision of Life Guards.

Should this occur, a further report would require to be brought before committee as this burden could not be accommodated within existing financial resources and a further decision would be required as to the value of retention against the costs to be incurred.

Both Lunan Bay and Arbroath West Links beaches have been assessed by (KSB) in June 2009 with recommendations being received for these beaches if they are to meet the Beach Award criteria. While levels of seaweed at the West Links Beach are very high it is a natural material and (KSB) would normally encourage it to be left but with the beach being free of litter and other debris. However the assessment did suggest that if complaints were being received during the award period they may ask for its removal.

Whilst there will be coordinated volunteer one off beach cleans the Parks Maintenance section and Waste Operations Green Teams will require to carry out periodic litter collections from the beaches and dune areas in accordance with a litter management plan to maintain grade B cleanliness standard.

The estimated costs for litter picks will be based on a daily collection for Arbroath and Monifieth and on three occasions per week at Lunan Bay

Additional items and award applications costs to meet the criteria for the Awards are as detailed

1. Notice Board	£1,500
2. Life saving equipment at six locations	£2,500
3. Flag poles	£1,200
4. Annual Award application costs per application 'Rural' x 3	£ 720
5. Annual Award application costs per application 'Resort' x 1	£ 493
6. Annual Litter pick at Lunan Bay and Arbroath	£ 4131
7. Annual litter collections at Monifieth	£ 1521

Monifieth Beach is not a designated bathing water by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and therefore no water quality testing is undertaken, any organisation or individual can put forward a bathing water to be considered for designation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no Financial Implications as the costs associated with the application can be met from existing revenue funding available within the Direct Services revenue budgets.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no Human Right Implications with 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 legalisation). An [equalities impact assessment](#) has been undertaken.

7. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

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

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

8. CONSULTATION

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

**RON ASHTON
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD 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 a material extent in preparing the above Report.

NS/DS/DFI/JC