

ANGUS COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

15 NOVEMBER 2001
20 NOVEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: ANGUS COUNTRYSIDE INITIATIVE

JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Abstract: This report refers to a request for financial assistance by the Angus Countryside Initiative, a group of Angus farmers, educational staff and representatives of rural businesses, to finance the employment of a part-time Project Officer from April 2002 - March 2004.

1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committees authorise the expenditure of up to £500 each (£250 per annum for each of 2 years) from the Economic Development and Education Budgets for 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 to assist towards the costs of employing a part-time Project Officer for the Angus Countryside Initiative from April 2002 – March 2004. This recommendation is subject to the Angus Countryside Initiative obtaining approval to their application from the Rural Challenge Fund.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Reference is made to article 3 of the minute of the meeting of the Economic Development Committee of 11 October, where the committee agreed to authorise expenditure of up to £380 from the Economic Development budget 2001/2002 to assist towards the costs of employing a part-time Project Officer for the Angus Countryside Initiative from October 2001 – March 2002.
- 2.2 Reference is made to article 10 of the minute of the meeting of the Education Committee of 16 October, where the committee agreed to authorise expenditure of up to £380 from the Education budget 2001/2002 to assist towards the costs of employing a part-time Project Officer for the Angus Countryside Initiative from October 2001 – March 2002.
- 2.3 The Angus Countryside Initiative (ACI) has subsequently made an application to the Rural Challenge Fund (closing date 12 October 2001) and has requested Angus Council to contribute £1,000 in match funding towards the costs of employing a Project Officer from April 2002 - March 2004 to further the work of the Angus Countryside Initiative begun in October 2001.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The estimated cost for the two-year post of part-time Project Officer is £14,890 (10 hours/week for 39 weeks). It is proposed that the Rural Challenge Fund meet 46% of the costs (£6,840). Scottish Enterprise Tayside, the National Farmers' Union of Scotland (Angus Branch) and the Royal Highland Educational Trust have agreed to provide match funding of £1,000, £1,250 and £600 respectively. In-kind contributions from the Angus Countryside Initiative (£1,300) and Farmer Volunteers (£900) have been confirmed. A further £2,000 is sought from Business Sponsors. On that basis,

the maximum contribution from Angus Council is likely to be £1,000, which sum can be met equally from the Economic Development Revenue Budget for 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 (£250 in each year) and the Education budget for 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 (£250 in each year).

4 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Directors of Finance, Education, and Law & Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 A contribution from the Council will further demonstrate its willingness to support the rural community of Angus and help the people of the Angus area develop a greater knowledge and understanding of the working countryside and of food production locally.

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/PD/MR

25 October 2001

A B Watson
Chief Executive

Jim Anderson
Director of Education