

## **17 TAYSIDE LEARNING AND ACCESS PARTNERSHIP (AN121-2004)**

In December 2003 the Scottish Executive announced a Regional Development Challenge Fund to address the development of the Scottish Museums sector. The fund is designed to promote partnerships between local authorities and museums to apply for funding to develop around one or more of the four key themes of, Learning, Access, Tourism or Workforce Development.

Partnerships are eligible to apply for up to £100,000 per annum for a three-year period with a 25% contribution from the partnership necessary in years two and three. It is anticipated that the Local Authority contributions will be in kind and that the costs relating to this bid can therefore be contained within the Leisure and Arts Department three year Revenue Budget.

Officers from Dundee City Council have met with colleagues at Perth and Kinross Council and Angus Council to prepare an application to fund a Tayside Learning and Access Partnership which will employ an officer, plus support, to develop these themes across the constituent Local Authority areas working with all Registered Museums.

The first round of applications is to 31st March 2004 and it is proposed to lodge an application with a report to the Leisure and Arts Committee with further detail and outcome in due course. The required partnership funding will be found from within existing Leisure and Arts budgets.