

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 11 FEBRUARY 2002

REPORT ON: SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RECYCLING

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 115-2002

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Committee of a request from the University of Dundee to support research projects relating to sustainability and recycling, and to recommend a response.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee agree to:

- a) make a 'one-off' contribution of £5,000 towards the cost of the research projects
- b) authorise the Chief Executive to send letters of support for the projects

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is recommended that the £5,000 expenditure be met from the Common Good Fund.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

This report impacts on the following key local agenda 21 themes:

- resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised
- health is protected by creating safe, clean, pleasant environments

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

6. BACKGROUND

6.1 The Council has been approached by Professor R K Dhir, Director of the Concrete Technology Unit in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Dundee. The Unit is acknowledged as a world class centre of research, with a strong record of partnership with industry. Over £2.5m of research projects relating to sustainability and recycling have been carried out since 1995 and over £1m of further projects are under consideration.

6.2 The Unit is currently submitting external funding bids for a number of new projects, which will create research jobs in Dundee, enhance the city's reputation as a centre of excellence in academic research and expand knowledge in relation to the use of waste materials as part of a commitment to sustainable construction, which will have long-term benefits for the environment. Commitment from local government will enhance the prospect of successful bids, and the Unit has requested letters of support along with a contribution towards the cost of a range of projects.

6.3 It is recommended that Committee agree to:

- make a 'one-off' contribution of £5,000 towards the cost of the research projects, this expenditure to be met from the Common Good Fund
- authorise the Chief Executive to send letters of support for the projects

7 **CONSULTATION**

The Directors of Support Services, Finance and Economic Development have been consulted on this report.

Chief Executive

Date