

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 25 APRIL 2011**

**REPORT ON: DISABLED GO - PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**

**REPORT NO: 175-2011**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek agreement from the City Council that it should accept a partnering agreement with Disabled Go for the production of an online access guide for 1,000 venues in the City.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the City Council agree to a contribution of £8,000 per year over the five financial years commencing 2011/12, as its contribution to this partnership agreement.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The cost of creating a 1,000 venue access guide for Dundee will be £40,000. This will be fully funded by Marks and Spencer and, on the basis of an agreed partnership, Dundee City Council will be responsible for maintaining the guide for a five year period, commencing 2011/12. The annual cost to the City Council of £8,000 will be found from the Chief Executive's Equalities Budget.

## **4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Disabled Go produces detailed local area access guides which are intended to empower disabled people and enhance local economies and tourist propositions.
- 4.2 The organisation already works with over 85 local authorities across Britain and Northern Ireland. This includes a number of other Scottish authorities, including Glasgow and, locally, Angus Council.
- 4.3 With the support of Marks and Spencer, Disabled Go is offering a sponsorship package to a number of local authorities on the basis that Marks and Spencer will fully fund the research, website development and setting up of the access guide on the basis that the local authority agree to maintain the guide for a five year period thereafter.
- 4.4 In the case of a proposal with Dundee, it is considered that a 1,000 venue guide should be established. Each venue will be surveyed by trained and qualified Disabled Go surveyors. The survey team will include fully trained local people with disabilities, and Disabled Go have a commitment to work closely with the Employment Unit, More Choices More Chances, and other local partnerships to take advantage of these opportunities.

- 4.5 Disabled Go have also confirmed that their information will be data-shared with the Council's nominated websites.
- 4.6 Representatives from the City Council met with Disabled Go to discuss their proposals, and satisfy themselves that this initiative would add real value to the City Council and assist it in meeting its equalities responsibilities.
- 4.7 The partnership with Disabled Go will ensure that, in year one, the following is provided:
- full project management;
  - organisation of community consultation events;
  - arranging appointments to survey agreed premises;
  - training and employment of local people with disabilities to carry out surveys;
  - face-to-face meetings with each service provider to promote disability awareness;
  - a detailed on-site survey of each of the agreed venues;
  - preparation of data for presentation on the website, including adding of links, proof-reading, etc.;
  - organising a Dundee launch event;
  - providing each venue with a Disability Awareness Manual;
  - establishing deep links to the Council website for community/tourism provision;
  - providing an agreed number of downloadable hard copy digests of the access guide.

This work will be fully funded by Marks and Spencer.

- 4.8 In years two to six, the annual renewal of £8,000 plus VAT will be funded by Dundee City Council.

The annual renewal fee funds:

- Disabled Go contacting all venues that took part in the initial survey;
- revisiting any venue that reports a structural change;
- conducting two local steering group meetings during the year;
- adding a further 20 to 25 venues each year;
- producing an annual report on accessibility within the City;
- maintaining the website and updating the downloadable hard-copy digest.

## **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 5.2 There are significant potential benefits for those with mobility difficulties.
- 5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>

**6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Finance have been consulted on the contents of this report.
- 6.2 Key stakeholders from the Dundee Access Group, Five Digits Disability Issues Group, and the City Centre Management Team have been consulted by the Council's Equality Co-ordinator and the Action Group Chair for Disability and Age.

**7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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**13 April 2011**