

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee 20 June 2005

REPORT ON: Tayside Biodiversity Partnership Annual Report

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 386-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To bring to the Committee's attention to the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Annual Report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the Tayside Biodiversity Annual Action Plan Report and supports its actions.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Dundee City Council contributes annually £8,350 to the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan in partnership with Perth & Kinross and Angus Councils as well as Scottish Natural Heritage.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The diversity of nature is valued and protected.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Reference is made to Article VIII of the Leisure and Arts Services Committee of 16 February 2004 where the Committee approved the City Council's annual contribution to the post of Tayside Biodiversity Co-ordinator until 2006/2007.

6.2 In its first 4 years, the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership has made significant progress in securing a better future for Tayside Biodiversity, principally through the employment of a Co-ordinator since November 2000. The Co-ordinator and Partnership have established a useful network of contacts and engaged the support of many agencies, voluntary organisations, interest groups and individuals. The joint arrangement between the three Councils in Tayside and SNH has given benefits of sharing responsibilities, reducing financial overheads, whilst gaining from a wider knowledge base, and sharing of experience.

6.3 2004 was an important one for the Scottish Biodiversity process. The passing of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity in the course of their work, to consider the impact their activities have on biodiversity and if possible, to act to benefit wildlife.

6.4 Dundee City Council is progressing this duty via its involvement in Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and the Environment Strategy to be progressed by Dundee's Partnership for the Environment.

6.5 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership Annual Report April 2004 to March 2005 (copy in Councillors Lounges) and its proposed future actions.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this Report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Article VIII of the Leisure and Arts Services Committee of 16 February 2004.

STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE and ARTS
DATE: 17 MAY 2005