

**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 12TH NOVEMBER, 2001**

**REPORT ON: TAYSIDE FILM INITIATIVE/COMMISSIONER**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**REPORT NO.: 702-2001**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1. This report outlines proposals for establishing a film commission covering the Tayside area to be promoted as a destination for film, video, still photography & T.V. projects and to co-ordinate responses to enquiries within the area. The aim of the initiative will be to attract more productions to use this area for filming and post production, by appointing a full time Film Commissioner for the duration of the project. Dundee City Council is the lead body for the project, which also involves for financial years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 funding of approximately £8,000 per annum pre E.R.D.F. grant. Dundee City Council will receive a similar amount from each of the other partners. These sums can be accommodated within the Economic Development Department revenue budget allocations for film development work.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee:-
- 2.1.1. Notes that this project builds on the work of Film Dundee and that substantial E.R.D.F. grant has been secured.
- 2.1.2. Agrees that Dundee City Council acts as the employing authority for the Film Commissioner.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. The project will last until the 31st December, 2004. The total cost of the project over the period of three years is projected at £94,224. This will attract E.R.D.F. grant of £46,776 which will be split between the 4 partners.
- 3.2. Dundee City Council's contributions can be accommodated in the Economic Development budget for the appropriate year. Anticipated contributions are as follows:-

**Contributions Excluding ERDF**

<u>Year</u>	<u>DCC</u>	<u>Angus</u>	<u>P &amp; K</u>	<u>SET</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
2001/02	1100	500	500	500	2600
2002/03	7962	7963	7963	7962	31850
2003/04	7365	7365	7364	7364	29458
2004/05	7579	7579	7579	7579	30316
	24006	23407	23406	23405	94224
Less ERDF					46776
Expenditure net of ERDF					47448

**Contributions Net of ERDF**

<u>Year</u>	<u>DCC</u>	<u>Angus</u>	<u>P &amp; K</u>	<u>SET</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
2001/02	615	195	195	195	1200
2002/03	3675	3675	3675	3675	14700
2003/04	3729	3729	3729	3729	14916
2004/05	4158	4158	4158	4158	16632
	12177	11757	11757	11757	47448

3.3. Dundee City Council as lead partner will administer the project on behalf of the partners.

#### 4. **LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. None.

#### 5. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. None.

#### 6. **REPORT**

6.1. The local authority partners currently assist film and T.V. productions in their respective areas working closely with Scottish Screen. They receive enquiries mainly from Scottish Screen, which acts as a focus for the existing Scottish Film Commission Network. Film Dundee was launched in 1998 to promote the use of the city for film production but has no dedicated staff or sufficient marketing budget to capitalise on existing demand or to promote the area effectively, thus creating new demand. Scottish Screen is supportive of a commission to cover the Tayside area, as this will improve the quality and speed of enquiries. At present the only east coast film commission is the Edinburgh Film Focus.

6.2. Each of the partners recognises the economic benefits to be gained from attracting film and T.V. production to the area. These include direct spending on accommodation and local services, the generation of business for local media and supply companies as well as training opportunities.

6.3. A unique selling point for Tayside is that it has a number of digital media facilities including V.R.C. at D.C.A. and the new Angus Digital Media Centre both of which offer excellent post production facilities that will add to the attractiveness of the area and increase economic impact if this activity is undertaken here either as part of a project or independently.

6.4. The objectives of the Tayside Film Office will be to: -

6.4.1. market the diversity of locations;

6.4.2. provide a free, comprehensive, timely and confidential service to producers;

6.4.3. liaise with film-makers and appropriate contacts within local authority services, relevant public organisations and the private sector to create a 'film friendly' environment;

6.4.4. promote post production facilities;

6.4.5. contribute to the broader development of film, television and digital media activity.

6.5. The project will employ a full time Film Commissioner who will be employed by Dundee City Council. The Commissioner will however work throughout the area and make use of facilities across the region to be made available by the partners.

6.6. The Commissioner will be responsible to a management group made up by the partners and will require to work to targets set and provide reporting measures.

7. **CONSULTATIONS**

7.1. The Chief Executive and the Directors of Finance, Support Services and Leisure & Arts have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1. No background papers, as defined in 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.

**DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .....**Date.....