

**REPORT TO: ARTS AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE - 20 NOVEMBER 2000**

**REPORT ON: "CHANGING NATURE" PROJECT**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ARTS AND HERITAGE**

**REPORT NO: 707-2000**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To report on the success of the "Changing Nature" community project and the forthcoming associated displays.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report
- 2.2 That officers are remitted to prepare proposals for follow up work, building on the success of this project.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The total projected cost of Changing Nature is £90,000. Grant awards of £30,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £9,500 from Scottish Natural Heritage have been received. The project has been successful in attracting outside sponsorship, receiving goods and services to the value of £5,000 from local businesses. Dundee City Council's contribution is £45,500, made up of £30,000 from the Council's Millennium Fund, £8,000 from the Arts and Heritage Department and £2,500 from the Planning and Transportation Department, both met from the respective department's 2000/01 Revenue Budget and £5,000 in kind from various departments.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 As Dundee's main environmental project for the Millennium, "Changing Nature" has played a prominent part in furthering the Council's commitment to Local Agenda 21 issues.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 "Changing Nature" activities have been carried out in a wide range of locations throughout the City and planned to maximise involvement by all sections of the community. Participation in all activities and entrance to the forthcoming displays in the McManus Galleries is free of charge.

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 6.1 The "Changing Nature" community project has been a tremendous success with over 120 events and activity sessions taking place throughout the City.
- 6.2 Over 5100 people have participated. This includes 13 public events, 60 sessions with community groups and 56 sessions with school groups.
- 6.3 The project has explored a wide variety of environmental issues in Dundee including, "The Ground under our Feet", "Freshwater Life of the Dighty Burn", "Looking Forward & Looking Back", "Lichens & Air Pollution" and "At the Mouth of the Tay".

- 6.4 The results of these Millennial activities will be presented as gallery displays at the McManus Galleries from 16<sup>th</sup> December 2000. and will be on show throughout 2001. A formal "gallery opening" is proposed for the evening of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, followed by a series of opportunities for participants to view the displays and "sign up" for future involvement.
- 6.5 The "Changing Nature" project has been organised and delivered by a partnership, led by the Arts & Heritage Department, with considerable support from a large number of other Departments, particularly, Education, Environmental & Consumer Protection, Leisure & Parks, Neighbourhood Resources & Development and Planning & Transportation as well as Statutory and Voluntary bodies.
- 6.6 "Changing Nature" has received a considerable amount of favourable local press coverage reinforcing Dundee's position as a leading "Green City".
- 6.7 The project has demonstrated the huge and largely unexplored range of opportunities for community involvement related to Dundee's environment. It has shown the substantial demand for and value of environmental projects which bring together the work of community groups, the local authority and other organisations together and into the public domain.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance, Director of Education, Director of Environmental & Consumer Protection, Director of Leisure & Parks, Director of Neighbourhood Resources & Development and Director of Planning and Transportation have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 Report 141/99 Arts & Heritage Committee 15.3.1999
- 8.2 Report 368/99 Planning & Transportation Committee 30.8.1999

Director of Arts & Heritage \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_