

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 15 November 2004

REPORT ON: The Regional Development Challenge Fund for Museums

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 753-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Regional Development Challenge Fund is one of the Scottish Executive's proposals to emerge from the consultation on an Action Framework for Museums. This report advises members on progress with this proposal and recommends the participation of Dundee City Council and the acceptance of the grant.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee welcomes the introduction of the Regional Development Challenge Fund and authorises the Director of Leisure and Arts to work with colleagues in Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils in the operation of a project management team and accepts the offer of project funding as outlined below.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Total funding for the project is £300,000. This will cover the cost of a shared Learning and Access Officer, estimated at a cost of £25,000 per annum and provision of project funds of £75,000 per annum for the benefit of the partner authorities. The scheme requires a 25% contribution from the partner authorities. Dundee City Council's contribution will be the equivalent of £8,333 per annum and will be in kind. This expenditure will be met from existing budgetary resources over the life of the project.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Heritage Section of the Leisure and Arts Department offers facilities and programmes of exhibitions, events and workshops which are planned to meet the need of local audiences and tourists, which ensure local needs are met locally and that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Heritage Section of the Leisure and Arts Department aims to make its programme of activities accessible to all sections of the community including visitors with disabilities, the elderly and those with small children.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Officers met colleagues in Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils earlier this year to explore possible partnership projects. Each authority is currently in receipt of Scottish Executive museum project funding through the Strategic Change Fund for three independent initiatives.

- Adult Learning (Perth and Kinross)
- Playing to our Strengths (Dundee City)

- Collections Access (Angus)

6.2 It was felt that these strategic projects offered a sound platform on which to develop a partnership scheme which addressed the Executive's themes. Accordingly, Dundee City Council made an application for RDCF funding (which is administered by the Scottish Museum Council). In September 2004 an award of £300,000 over three years was made subject to approval of the project by the three constituent authorities.

6.3 The proposed project will focus on the roll out of the best practice from the current Scottish Executive funded projects in Angus, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross. This will be facilitated by the appointment of an officer shared by the three authorities and managed by a project board of senior managers from each.

Over the course of the project the officer's time will be divided equally across the three authorities. As the Heritage Section of Leisure and Arts is now fully engaged in the McManus Development Project 'Who We Are', it is now proposed that in year one Angus Council will act as the lead authority. The remainder of the project funding will be allocated to the delivery of the best practice from the three projects. Dundee City Council can therefore expect approximately the equivalent of £25,000 per year to be invested in project development over the course of the three years within the City of Dundee. This will also involve our partners through the 'Playing to our Strengths' project at Dundee Industrial Heritage and the University of Dundee.

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 Report No 815- 2002

**STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE and ARTS
28 OCTOBER 2004**