

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee - 19 March 2007

REPORT ON: Sensation (Dundee Science Centre) - Revenue Support 2007-2008

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 175-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of revenue funding to Sensation (Dundee Science Centre) for the year 2007-2008.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approval the level of Grant funding amounting to £30,161 as set out in this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The funding recommended is £30,161 which sum is provided for in the Leisure & Communities Department's Revenue Budget for 2007-2008, as shown in the budget at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 A separate annual Grant of £15,000 was approved at the Policy & Resources Committee on 14 December 1998 to replace a proposed endowment fund, which will be met from the Leisure & Communities Department's Revenue budget 2007-2008.
- 3.3 The terms and conditions of Grant will be contained within a funding agreement 2007-2008, between Dundee City Council and Sensation (Dundee Science Centre).

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Sustainability

The renewal of revenue funding to Sensation (Dundee Science Centre) will ensure the continued provision of a popular educational visitor attraction, that locally needs are met locally and that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

- 4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

None required.

- 4.3 Anti-Poverty

Sensation (Dundee Science Centre) provide employment and develop employment prospects as well as providing concession rates for access.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Sensation's principle activity is the provision of education, presentation and research in the fields of life sciences and other applications of science and to make them accessible to the general public. There is full disabled access throughout.

The funding agreement 2007-2008 will contain requirements that Sensation practices equal opportunities policies in respect of its dealing with its public and staff.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Major roads, the building of the new multi-storey car park and environmental works in the surrounding area in 2006 had a disruptive effect on Sensation's performance in the year. Major capital installation works at the Centre also impacted on day visits, never the less other important markets, notably schools remained robust recording an overall increase on previous years.

- 6.2 During 2006 Sensation made advances towards achieving its ambition of becoming the best small science and discovery centre in the world, and a centre of educational excellence. It achieved this by successfully completing a £3m capital investment programme and expanding its education programme. As a result of this progress Sensation is now in a position to take bold steps in realising its "world-class" vision during the life of its business plan 2007-2010.

- 6.3 2006 also provided a year of consolidation for the education team and associated service. New activities and events were piloted, support material provision was increased, the website was upgraded, and many new relationships were made. The end of 2006 also saw the publication of Learning & Teaching Scotland's report on educational provision by the Scottish Science Centres Network, and the centre's second inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education. All of these factors combine to provide a strong basis of experience, knowledge, direction and ambition on which to drive forward the education programme in coming years. Further improvements in the depth and breadth of education/public engagement activity will be dependent upon securing additional external funding beyond 2006 levels.

- 6.4 A capital investment programme funded by the Millennium Commission was completed in 2006. This has entailed an almost entire transformation of the Centre with many new exhibits and upgraded facilities. In addition to its permanent exhibition the Centre continues to host major touring exhibitions during the peak visitor months.

- 6.5 Sensation is also now a part of the National Network of Science Centres, the first of its kind in Europe. Sensation aims in future years to expand on its development and running of educational programmes with associations of scientific developments at local universities, Ninewells Hospital and the associated science network and other initiatives will seek to develop its reputation at both national and international level.

6.6 Plans for 2007

Over the next three years Sensation hopes to deliver against its primary agenda of widening the public understanding of science through wider programming (which supports clear and measurable learning outcomes, rather than the historic emphasis on outputs only), greater alignment with relevant public policy, improved engagement with more diverse audiences and a widening in its reach to ensure no groups are left disenfranchised.

- 6.7 For the first time in its lifetime, the future "educational" role of Sensation has become the focal point of its Business Plan and shows an important maturing that will, it is hoped, see it deliver strongly for the community which it serves. In celebration of International Polar Year Sensation will launch its entry into issues surrounding the environment by focussing on this major event from July 2007 onwards. These links will be strengthened by the development of a teachers forum which includes schools with "green flag" status. The resulting collaborations and pilot activities will be rolled out across other schools in the region.
- 6.8 Visitor numbers for 2006 were 67,035 and for 2007 are projected to be 70,000.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance) 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 None.

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
28 FEBRUARY 2007

Sensation (Dundee Science Centre)**Appendix 1**

	Projected Out-turn 2006	Projected Budget 2007
Expenditure	£	£
Staff costs and operation costs	652,941	661,264
Income		
Visitor Revenue	375,225	424,764
Car Parks	85,974	74,000
DCC Revenue	29,060	30,161
DCC Endowment	15,000	15,000
Other Funding/Donations	147,742	117,500
Total	653,001	661,425
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>60</u>	<u>161</u>
Surplus brought forward	574	634
Surplus carried forward	634	795