

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Arts and Heritage Committee - 21 May 2001

REPORT ON: Dundee Science Centre (Sensation) - Revenue Support 2001-2002

REPORT BY: Director of Arts and Heritage

REPORT NO: 205-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of revenue funding to Dundee Science Centre (Sensation) for the year 2001-2002.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £26,000.00, as set out in the Report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The funding requested, as shown in the Budget at Appendix I, is £26,000 which can be met from the Arts and Heritage Department's Revenue Budget for 2001-2002.

3.2 A separate annual grant of £15,000 was approved at the Policy and Resources Committee on 14 December 1998 to replace a proposed endowment fund, which will be met from the Arts and Heritage Department's Revenue Budget 2001-2002.

3.3 The terms and conditions of grant will be contained within a Funding Agreement 2001-2002, between Dundee City Council and Dundee Science Centre (Sensation).

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The renewal of revenue funding to Dundee Science Centre (Sensation) will ensure the continued provision of a popular educational visitor attraction, that 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 Dundee Science Centre's principal activity is the provision of a facility devoted to education, presentation and research in the fields of life sciences and other applications of science, and to make them accessible to the general public. The Centre has fully disabled public access, and is particularly geared to children and family groups.

5.2 The Funding Agreement 2001-2002 will contain requirements that Dundee Science Centre (Sensation) practice equal opportunities policies in respect of its public and staff.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Dundee Science Centre, called "Sensation", opened on time and on budget on 1 July 2000. By December 2000, 48,000 paying visitors had been attracted. The year 2001 has begun

strongly with visitor numbers above the business plan target up to the end of March. Public satisfaction levels are reflected in the high levels of repeat visits from the public and schools. There has been positive feedback from the large majority of visitors. Sensation has achieved Scottish Tourist Board visitor attraction four star status.

6.2 The interactive exhibits are operating reliably and the contents of the exhibits have been praised by sponsors and scientists as well as the public. Four additional exhibits have been recently installed and a major new exhibit is planned for July 2001.

6.3 The focus of the schools' programme has been on the primary sector with shows being offered in six areas relevant to the curriculum. Secondary and Nursery programmes will begin in Autumn 2001. Business and Education partnership funding has supported visits for Primary 7s from Dundee Schools. Sensation has taken part in various external events including the Dundee Flower Festival, Edinburgh Science Festival, Science Week and Techfest in Aberdeen. Further special events are planned to coincide with the commencement of Science Year in September 2001.

Sensation has worked with the Arts and Heritage Department on the "Coming to Our Senses" exhibition which began in March 2001.

Other special exhibits already planned for 2001 include Science Centre Favourites (May - August) and the return of the popular "Dinosaur Dig" (August - October).

6.4 Sensation has had very positive media coverage in the national press which has assisted in increasing visitor numbers from outwith Dundee. A wider than anticipated age range is being attracted and to build upon this successful trend, and to strengthen public knowledge of the location, from April 2001 Sensation will be rebranded Sensation Dundee. The centre supports 33 full-time equivalent jobs in the city.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance and Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

Director of Arts and Heritage _____ Date _____

Dundee Science Centre : Budget

	<u>Projected Outturn</u> <u>June-Dec 2000</u> <u>based on 48,000 Visitors</u>	<u>Forecast</u> <u>Jan-Dec 2001</u> <u>based on 82,600 Visitors</u>
<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Visitor Revenue etc	304,000	498,600
Car Parks	42,000	77,400
ERDF	8,000	24,500
Matthew Trust	6,500	13,500
DCC Revenue	12,500	26,000
DCC Endowment	7,500	15,000
Bank of Scotland	6,000	15,500
Millennium Commission	<u>-</u>	<u>25,000</u>
	<u>386,500</u>	<u>695,500</u>
 <u>Expenditure</u>		
Staff Costs & Operating Costs	381,000	695,500
Surplus towards Exhibition Renewal	<u>5,500</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>386,500</u>	<u>695,500</u>