

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 17 March 2003

REPORT ON: Alt-W

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 227-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for grant funding to Alt-W, Digital Media Creative Production Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves support of £5,000 for Alt-W.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of operating the Alt-W Production Grant scheme in 2002/2003 is £40,000. This is supported by Scottish Screen to the value of £30,000 and Scottish Enterprise to the value of £5,000. The balance of £5,000 is requested from Dundee City Council. The Leisure and Arts Department Revenue Budget 2002/2003 can meet the balance of £5,000.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The scheme is consistent with the aims of Local Agenda 21 and will assist in ensuring that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available for all.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposed scheme will provide opportunities for all and is consistent with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Alt-W is the brand name of the Digital Media Creative Fund which was established as a partnership with Scottish Screen, Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Dundee University, University of Abertay, Dundee College, New Media Scotland and Dundee City Council. From these organisations a panel of advisors has been established to oversee the promotion of the scheme, assessment of applications and the funding awards. Additionally there is also a monitoring scheme which assists in the development and technical requirements in the field of digital media.

6.2 In 2002 over 50 applications were received for Alt-W grants and over a period of two days 25 of the most innovative proposals were considered by the panel in one to one interviews with the applicants. The panel comprised of five members of the Steering Group Partnership. Production Grants were awarded to the following artists :

Cathy Boyd
Cavan Convery

Gina Czarnecki
Gili Dolev
S Fields and K McPherson
Zöe Irvine
Andy Mackinnon
Mandy MacIntosh
D Nutter and V Payton
Robert Page
Andy Rice
Chris Rowland

A Research and Development Grant was awarded to:

Louisa McIver and Patrick Macklin, Glasgow
Production Grants were valued at £2,000 each and Research & Development £500.

- 6.3 The Alt-W website is hosted by New Media Scotland and the first of the Alt-W projects went live in early October 2002. The nature of many of the projects is such that they will take longer to develop to broadcast standard but it is anticipated that they will be completed and posted on Alt-W by early Spring.
- 6.4 The initial pilot project has proved to be very successful and as a consequence Scottish Screen agreed to fund the project for at least another year. The level of the Scottish Screen funding is £30,000. Scottish Enterprise Tayside also agreed to continue funding to the value of £5,000. Dundee City Council's proposed contribution is £5,000. The number of applications made is similar to the pilot year and a similar number of awards will be made. The level of individual awards has been agreed at £2,500 for a production grant to ensure that individual projects can be developed to high standard of innovation and presentation.

7.0 CONSULTATION

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

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Article IV of the Arts & Heritage Committee, 21 May 2001 – Report No 275-2001

STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE and ARTS
24 FEBRUARY 2003