

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2002**

**REPORT ON: Astronomy module with University of Abertay Dundee and an Advisory Board for the Mills Observatory**

**REPORT BY: Director of Leisure & Arts**

**REPORT NO: 333-2002**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the committee about a new Astronomy module to be run in conjunction with the University of Abertay Dundee
- 1.2 To seek committee approval for setting up a Development Advisory Board for the Mills Observatory

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Members should note the introduction of the new Astronomy module.
- 2.2 It is recommended that committee approve the setting up of a Development Advisory Board for the Mills Observatory.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The arrangement with University of Abertay Dundee will result in an income to the Mills Observatory budgets of approximately £1,000 p.a. in fees payable for the tutor and hire of the lecture room.
- 3.2 The setting up of the Development Advisory Board will not entail any additional expenditure..

### **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The proposals in this report will make a substantial contribution to ensuring that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are available locally.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The University of Abertay Dundee and Dundee City Council have Equal Opportunities Policies in place to ensure opportunities are open to all.

### **6.0 ASTRONOMY MODULE**

- 6.1 The Heritage Officer at Mills Observatory worked at the University of Abertay Dundee prior to joining Dundee City Council. He is a qualified astronomer and has designed an Astronomy module as a free elective choice for students at the University. All students, regardless of their chosen course will be free to take this module. Increased usage of the Mills Observatory will result, and if the course is successful, further specialist astronomy modules may be developed in the future.

**7.0 DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE MILLS OBSERVATORY**

7.1 The future development of the Mills Observatory depends upon its ability to attract funding from public and private sources. It is proposed that a small Development Advisory Group of distinguished academics and businesspersons should be set up to assist and advise the Heritage Officer in making bids for external funding, writing letters of support and helping with lobbying as appropriate. Four people have already expressed their willingness to join the group. They are Councillor Charles Farquhar O.B.E. Convener of Leisure and Arts, Professor Michael Ferguson FRS FRSE of Dundee University, Professor John Palfreyman, Head of Science and Engineering at the University of Abertay Dundee, and Mr Andrew Nicoll, an architect who was closely involved with the development of the Visitor Centre at Royal Observatory Edinburgh.

It is envisaged that the group would meet on four occasions per annum.

**8.0 CONSULTATION**

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

**8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.

Director of Leisure & Arts \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_