

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 16 June 2003

REPORT ON: Sensation (Dundee Science Centre) – Revenue Support 2003-2004

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 379-2003

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 2003-2004.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £28,000.00.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The funding recommended, as shown in the Budget at Appendix 1, is £28,000.00.
- 3.2 This expenditure will be met from the Leisure and Arts Department's revenue budget 2003-2004.
- 3.3 A separate annual grant of £15,000.00 was approved at the Policy and Resources Committee on 14 December 1998 to replace a proposed endowment fund, which will be met from the Leisure and Arts Department's revenue budget 2003-2004.
- 3.4 The terms and conditions of grant will be contained within a Funding Agreement 2003-2004, between Dundee City Council and Sensation (Dundee Science Centre).

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The renewal of revenue funding to Sensation (Dundee Science Centre) 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 Sensation's principal 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.
- 5.2 The Funding Agreement 2003-2004 will contain requirements that Sensation practises equal opportunities policies in respect of its public and staff.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Dundee Science Centre, called "Sensation", opened in July 2000. The capital project was funded by the Millennium Commission, Wellcome Trust, Scottish Enterprise Tayside, the Gannochy Trust, Dundee City Council, the European Regional Development Fund and the private sector. The centre is a registered charity. It is the UK's only Science Centre devoted to the five senses. The Good Britain guide has named it "Scottish Family Attraction of the Year, 2003".
- 6.2 The centre has 1000 square metres of exhibition area devoted to multi-media presentations, live shows, interactive exhibits, a Technosphere computer area and laboratory experiments to show how people, plants and animals sense their environment and react to it. A special events programme runs throughout the year, recent highlights of which have included a dinosaur dig and the Tour de Force exhibition. Activities include science clubs, evening lectures, talks and events aimed at adults and children. The centre runs primary and secondary school visits geared to curriculum needs.
- 6.3 Major special events in 2003 are an exploration of volcanoes, an "Eating Creepy Crawlies" touring exhibition from the National History Museum and "Rubberband Buggies" in which people and groups will be challenged to design their own buggies and race them against others in the Sensation Grand Prix.
- 6.4 During 2002 Dundee Science Centre addressed the financial situation it had encountered in the preceding year by examining and reducing its overhead costs. A review of marketing achieved an upturn in visitor numbers thereby generating additional income. The financial focus for the coming year will be to consolidate the cost reductions so far achieved and to continue to increase visitor numbers and income by introducing temporary exhibitions during key periods.

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

STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ARTS
19 MAY 2003

SENSATION (DUNDEE SCIENCE CENTRE)**APPENDIX 1**

	Out-turn Jan-Dec 2002, based on 70,000 visitors	Forecast Jan-Dec 2003, based on 74,000 visitors
Income	£	£
Visitor Revenue	329,549	359,182
Car Parks	93,525	93,620
ERDF	19,595	19,950
Trust Income	13,250	5,000
DCC Revenue	27,000	28,000
DCC Endowment	15,000	15,000
Other Funding/Donations	49,659	18,611
Total	<u>547,578</u>	<u>539,363</u>
Expenditure		
Staff costs and operating costs	545,078	539,363
Surplus	2,500	---