

REPORT TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

REPORT ON: PARTICIPATION IN 2004 CIVIC TRUST AWARDS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 397-2003

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the participation of Dundee City Council in the Civic Trust Awards for 2004.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the participation of the Council in the Civic Trust Awards for 2004.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is estimated that the participation in the Civic Trust Awards scheme will result in minimal costs to the Council which can be met from the Planning & Transportation Department Revenue Budget for 2003-04.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Participation in the awards scheme would be complementary to the Council's policies on sustainability; access to skills, knowledge and information; opportunities for culture and leisure and recreation; places, spaces and objects combine meaning and beauty with utility; diversity and local distinctiveness are valued and protected.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The awards scheme is open to all sections of the community. The team judges includes an access advisor.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Civic Trust Awards is a prestigious and long-established UK-wide assessment of recently completed new building, restoration, landscape, regeneration and public art schemes. It is initially judged by local teams nominated by the Civic Trust and assessed to a nationally consistent standard by the Trust's judges in London.
- 6.2 The annual awards scheme runs on a two-year city/countryside based rota. Dundee last participated in the 2002 assessments, along with all major city areas of the UK. In 2000 Dundee received an award for Dundee Contemporary Arts and a Commendation for the University of Abertay Dundee Library; in 2002 Dundee received a Mention for McIntyre's hair salon.
- 6.3 The awards scheme offers local authorities an opportunity to promote good environmental design whilst raising their own profiles, by receiving national publicity for their involvement and for local projects. Local authorities are also encouraged to enter their own projects (and are given a reduced entry rate).

- 6.4 The Council's participation in co-ordinating the Civic Trust Awards at the local level involves: encouraging local entries, receiving the entry documents, and organising a visit to the entries for the judging team. The team is appointed by the Trust and comprises a nationally respected architect, a planning officer from the local authority, a 'local advisor' and an access advisor. The local authorities are asked to refund any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the judges, but these are kept to a minimum.
- 6.5 The scheme will be promoted from the end of June 2003, with entries returned by mid September. The judging will take place in October and the winners will be announced at a national ceremony in March 2004.
- 6.6 If any Dundee projects receive awards or commendations then a local awards ceremony will be arranged and the Council would also contribute the cost of awards plaques.
- 6.7 For clarification, there is no direct connection with the design awards scheme organised by Dundee Civic Trust, which is assessed and judged at a local level.

7 CONSULTATIONS

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

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None. Further details of the awards scheme and past awards can be found on the Civic Trust's web site: www.civictrust.org.uk.

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