

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

14 APRIL 15

AMENDMENT TO REVENUE BUDGET SUBMISSION 2015/16

Museums and Galleries

A total of seven museums and galleries are located in five Angus burghs, all open 35 to 39 hours per week (the William Lamb studio is open for 18 hours in July and August only). Services provided include permanent exhibitions and on average, fifty temporary exhibitions per year. Guided tours for schools and other groups, talks and lectures for community and educational groups, resources supporting the school's curriculum, an enquiries service, research facilities, graphic and exhibition design, and collections documentation, conservation and care, as well as online services. Collections span archaeology, social history, ethnography, natural history, technology and fine and applied art. All Angus museums have achieved Museums Accreditation working to the national collections documentation Standard.

The 2015/16 budget submission information (RB6) indicated that a savings plan was based on rationalising the Museum staffing levels and a reduction in opening hours for four out of five museums. In effect, this would result in the deletion of four museum assistant posts, one each at Arbroath, Brechin, Kirriemuir and Montrose and make the necessary savings of £42,000.

Services to Communities management and a Human Resources Advisor met with staff to discuss these savings, how the savings would be met and the process that would be undertaken.

However, at this stage, it was evident from discussions that there was an opportunity to re-assess the original savings proposals allowing retention of the front line service posts by re-aligning services elsewhere in museums and in other service areas within Services to Communities.

The information below indicates how the £42,000 savings will now be delivered, with £41,827 being initially identified but will be monitored during implementation :-

- A post has recently been vacated within the sports development unit with the incumbent successful in being appointed to another post within the council. The full employee costs of £21,312 will now be taken towards the saving and the post will be deleted from the establishment.
- Within the Galleries section of the museums unit, a post was previously extended on a temporary basis from the established 14.5 hours to 36.25 hours per week and budget allocated. This extension will finish on 31 March 2015 and the post revert back to 14.5 hours per week. A saving of £13,297 will result from this action.
- A cleaner/caretaker post in the museums unit will be reduced from 18.25 hours per week to 10 hours per week and will result in a saving £3,923.
- A vacant Saturday Assistant post within the museums unit will be deleted from the establishment and will result in a saving of £3,295.

Contact for further information:

Alastair Wilson, Interim Head of services to Communities

Email: CommunitiesBusinessSupport@angus.gov.uk