

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 28 APRIL 2015**

**COMMON GOOD FUND – PROJECT APPROVAL**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF TECHNICAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES**

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks committee approval for additional Brechin Common Good funded proposals for the Robert Watson Watt statue.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees that the Robert Watson Watt statue sited on common good ground at St.Ninians Square, Brechin be transferred to the ownership of the Council;
- 1.2 Agree that future maintenance be funded from Brechin Common Good Funds.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN / SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT / CORPORATE PLAN**

- 2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-16:
  - Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit;
  - Individuals are involved in their communities.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The Watson Watt Society commissioned a statue of Robert Watson Watt which was unveiled by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne in September 2014 at St.Ninians Square in Brechin. The square is held on the Brechin Common Good account.

**4. PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The Society has asked that the statue ownership and future maintenance be transferred to Angus Council, as per the attached letter.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 As per the letter, the anticipated funding is considered to be nominal in line with similar monuments. If the sums involved are in excess of the annual maintenance budgets for the Common Good then these will be reported as necessary

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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10 01 00

**ROBERT WATSON WATT**  
pioneer of radar



9 March 2015

Patron: The Earl of Dalhousie

40 Latch Road

BRECHIN

DD9 6JF

The Watson-Watt Society of Brechin

11 MAR 15 10:02

Mr. Richard Stiff  
Chief Executive  
Angus Council,  
FORFAR  
DD8 1AX

Dear Mr. Stiff:

**MEMORIAL TO ROBERT WATSON-WATT**

I refer to our communications of October/November 2012 relevant to the Watson-Watt Society's wish to transfer ownership of the above monument to Angus Council.

As you are aware, the statue has been completed and was 'unveiled' by HRH Anne, The Princess Royal, in September 2014. The statue has been very well received by the people of the town and has already drawn a number of visitors to Brechin. Later this year, a group from The National World War II Museum of the United States will visit the town to see the memorial.

It is generally agreed that the statue, of heavy bronze and mounted on a high stone plinth, is as vandal proof as is possible and will require very little maintenance over the years. During the process of raising funds and placing the order with the sculptor, Alan Herriot, the Society has been in frequent contact with members of the planning and property departments of Angus Council. The former manager of Cultural Services, Mr. Norman Atkinson, was an adviser to the Society. We have the support of all three local authority councillors.

The Society would now like to transfer the ownership and maintenance of the statue, the only one in Brechin, to Angus Council. I understand such a request is subject to the approval of the appropriate committee and I would ask you to put our request before them.

Please contact me if you need any further information on this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,