

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2017**

**ARBROATH AND BRECHIN 2020 CELEBRATING ANGUS' INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD**

**REPORT BY ALAN McKEOWN STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PLACE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides information to members with regard to services in the Place Directorate, albeit that a decision is not required in terms of the current Scheme of Delegation to Officers and the Order of Reference of Committees. Then report outlines the Service Level Agreement in support of the Arbroath 2020 and Brechin 2020 celebrations and the partnership established to develop a community led approach to the celebrations.

**1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 2020 will be 700 years since the Arbroath declaration was sent from Arbroath to the Pope in Avignon. This document remains one of the most significant and often contentious in the history of Scotland. For some it indicates an early desire for Scotland to become independent from England but for others and scholars in particular, they feel that it was the beginning of democracy as we know it today. A moment when access to power through birth was questioned - the nobles declare that they would choose their own king if the king refused to listen to their views.
- 1.2 There are various opinions about where the document was drawn up, where it was signed, if it was signed or sealed. What we do know is that, so influential was the Abbott of Arbroath Abbey that the document had to be approved or published through Arbroath or Aberbrothock.
- 1.3 It really illustrated the vibrancy and dynamism of Arbroath at that time; a small settlement that had grown up around the Abbey, that had become so influential that an important document such as this declaration or 'letter' of this political weight could not leave the country without the authority of the Abbey.
- 1.4 Arbroath 2020 is a small community committee that has constituted itself as a SCIO with the aim of developing a yearlong cultural programme that will celebrate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important period in Arbroath's history. The aim is to develop an ambitious cultural programme that will celebrate the 'declaration', celebrate Arbroath of that period as a fascinating and enterprising medieval town and also to think about now and the future of this small coastal town.
- 1.5 This is a very significant opportunity for Arbroath to develop a core community led cultural programme that is of national and international significance. A programme that will bring visitors from across Scotland and beyond to attend performances, events, fairs and activities that will bring a year of colour and dynamism to Arbroath.
- 1.6 2020 also sees the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brechin Cathedral. From at least the 10th century the site of Brechin Cathedral and round tower has been associated with the Christian church. Although many comparable towers are known in Ireland, the free-standing round tower is one of only two surviving examples from medieval Scotland
- 1.7 The 26m high tower is built of massive blocks of irregular sandstone and probably contained seven storeys with wooden floors. The original doorway to the tower stands over 2m above ground level and would have been accessed via a portable ladder. The round-headed entrance doorway is flanked by two projecting panels. The head of the arch is carved with a crucifixion and the main faces of each jamb bear an ecclesiastical figure or saint. To either side of the sill the panels are carved with crouching beasts. These carvings, together with the ornamented border around the door, may indicate a 10th-11th century date for the tower. Additional early medieval carved stones are located in the cathedral.

1.8 2020 should prove to be a year of local, national and international significance shining a spotlight on the communities of Arbroath and Brechin and will act as a cultural celebration of the best of Angus. The 2020 events will contribute to Regional tourism aspirations and to the tourism strategy for Angus. They will also form part of the regional cultural offering supporting the bid for Dundee and the region as European City of Culture 2023.

## **2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION**

2.1 Report 234/16 (Appendix C) agreed to provide £50,000 of carry forward resources available to support the two 2020 events. It is anticipated that further underspend bids may come forward should that be affordable. The funding will be matched by the two towns' organising committees and a Service Level Agreement (SLA) (attached at **Appendix 1**) has been written to guide the work of the groups.

2.2 The SLA is not exhaustive and has been written to allow for flexibility and local community influence. It is anticipated that a proportion of the resources will be used to employ a Festival Programme Manager who will support local groups to develop, co-ordinate and deliver the events in both towns. Both the Arbroath and Brechin 2020 groups have identified this post as a priority as capacity around fundraising, planning and delivery are a concern. The SLA will be reviewed with the organisers every three months. In addition non cash support will be sought in the run up to the events but that will only be provided on the basis that this is not an Angus Council led event, rather it is firmly a community led celebration with Angus Council and its partners supporting where relevant.

2.3 Further information reports on progress and key events will be developed and presented over the lifetime of the projects.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Service Level Agreement

## Service Level Agreement – Angus Council Arbroath 2020 and Brechin 2020

### Background

In 2020 we celebrate the 700th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath on April 6 1320 and the 800th anniversary of Brechin Cathedral which gives rise to our only City in Angus. Together these events represent an unparalleled opportunity to both engage residents and visitors in a celebration of the County's history and heritage and to raise the profile of Arbroath, Brechin and Angus nationally and internationally. This will contribute to the economic vibrancy of the area and help to generate a sense of civic pride and achievement that empowers people and contributes to the visions for Arbroath and Brechin articulated in the Locality Plans for the two areas.

On 29 June 2017 the Council approved the allocation of £50,000 to support the planning and delivery of a range of events to celebrate both the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath and the establishment of Brechin Cathedral. This funding was approved on the understanding that it would be matched by funds and contributions from other sources.

### Outputs/deliverables:

- Lead the delivery of an ambitious and programme of events to commemorate and celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath and establishment of Brechin Cathedral which:
  - Celebrate the past, present and futures of Arbroath and Brechin
  - Promote the towns and their cultural and economic assets
  - Complement and enhance existing community celebrations and events
- Generate a minimum of 100% (£50,000) in match funding to support the delivery of the events programme
- Lead the delivery of effective promotional and marketing programmes to underpin the success of the events programme
- Provide the Arbroath Locality Implementation Partnership with a report on the events programme which details:
  - Income and expenditure
  - Levels of participation and engagement
  - the social and economic impact of the programme and its contribution to achieving the agreed visions for Arbroath and Brechin
  - the contribution which the programme has made to tackling inequalities in Arbroath and Brechin
  - the contributions of partners and the community

### Outcomes

The programme will contribute to or deliver the following outcomes:

- Residents of Arbroath and Brechin feel a sense of pride in their communities
- The profile of Arbroath, Brechin and Angus is raised nationally and internationally
- The influence which Angus has had on the country and the world is recognised and celebrated
- The programme of events makes a positive contribution to local and regional economies
- The programme of events is accessible to and enjoyed by all sections of the Arbroath and Brechin communities
- Local people are engaged and influential in the planning and delivery of the programme of events
- People and partners work together effectively to deliver the programme and promote Arbroath and Brechin
- Ensure inclusivity to the events maximising community engagement and empowerment making demonstrable links to the Arbroath Locality Plan and the Angus Local Outcome Improvement Plan

### **Quality**

- High quality events and experiences
- Safe and secure events
- Participation and inclusion

### **Roles and responsibilities**

Arbroath 2020/Brechin 2020 will:

- Lead and coordinate the programme of events
- Secure match funding for the programme
- Provide progress reports and updates to the Arbroath and Brechin Locality Implementation Partnerships
- Secure the involvement of local people and partners as well as regionally and/or nationally where appropriate
- Be responsible for ensuring that high quality events are delivered