

8 TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY CO-ORDINATOR (AN72-2004)

Reference is made to Article VII of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20th October, 2003 where approval expenditure was given as Dundee City Council's contribution to the post of the Tayside Biodiversity Co-ordinator until 31st March, 2004. The Committee is now asked to approve the expenditure of £6,750 in 2004/05, £8,350 in 2005/06 and £8,700 in 2006/07 as Dundee City Council's continuing contribution to the post of the Tayside Biodiversity Co-ordinator. This contribution can be contained within the existing Leisure and Arts Department Revenue budgets in 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 and will be matched by Perth and Kinross Council and Angus Council as well as a 50% grant in 2004/05 and a 35% grant in both 2005/06 and 2006/07 from Scottish Natural Heritage.

In its first three years, the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership has made significant progress in securing a better future for Tayside Biodiversity, principally through the employment of a Co-ordinator since November 2000. The Co-ordinator and Partnership have established a useful network of contacts and engaged the support of many agencies, voluntary organisations, interest groups and individuals. The joint arrangement between the three Councils in Tayside and SNH has given benefits of sharing responsibilities, reducing financial overheads whilst gaining from a wider knowledge base and sharing of experience.