

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee - 20 February 2006

REPORT ON: Sensation (Dundee Science Centre) - Revenue Support 2006-2007

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 120-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of revenue funding to Sensation (Dundee Science Centre) for the year 2006-2007.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £29,060.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The funding recommended, as shown in the Budget at Appendix 1, is £29,060, which sum is provided for in the Department's Revenue Budget for 2006-2007.
- 3.2 A separate annual grant of £15,000.00 was approved at the Policy and Resources Committee on 14 December 1998 to replace a proposed endowment fund, which will be met from the Department's Revenue Budget 2006-2007.
- 3.3 The terms and conditions of grant will be contained within a Funding Agreement 2006-2007, between Dundee City Council and Sensation (Dundee Science Centre).

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The renewal of revenue funding to Sensation (Dundee Science Centre) will ensure the continued provision of a popular educational visitor attraction, that local needs are met locally, and that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Sensation's principal activity is the provision of education, presentation and research in the fields of life sciences and other applications of science and to make them accessible to the general public. There is full disabled access throughout.
- 5.2 The Funding Agreement 2006-2007 will contain requirements that Sensation practises equal opportunities policies in respect of its dealings with its public and staff.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Major road and environmental works in the surrounding area in 2005 have had a disruptive effect on Sensation's performance in the current year, as have weather conditions unfavourable to the visitor market. Major capital installation works at the centre also impacted on day visits. Nevertheless, other important markets, notably

schools, remained remarkably robust, recording an overall increase on previous years.

- 6.2 During the year, the Policy and Resources Committee of Dundee City Council agreed to fund the following through the General Contingency Fund.
- Meeting 12 September 2005 (AN370-2005) : £20,000 to meet the costs of 4000 primary school pupils' visits, including associated travel costs
 - Meeting 17 October 2005 (AN414-2005) : £19,500 to meet the costs of 3000 visits by disadvantaged and unemployed adults
 - Meeting 14 November 2005 (AN430-2005) : £15,000 to meet the costs of providing outreach/career events for secondary school students
- 6.3 A capital investment programme funded by the Millennium Commission was carried out in 2005 and is due to be completed in early 2006. This has entailed an almost entire transformation of the centre with many new exhibits and upgraded facilities. These will be publicly launched prior to Easter 2006. In addition to its permanent exhibits, the centre will continue to host major touring exhibitions during the peak visitor months.
- 6.4 Sensation is also now part of a national network of Science Centres, the first of its kind in Europe. Sensation's aim in future years will be to expand on the development and running of educational programmes and other initiatives which will seek to develop its reputation at both national and international level.
- 6.5 Visitor numbers for 2005 were 59,464 and for 2006 are projected to be 69,595.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this Report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
26 JANUARY 2006

**Sensation (Dundee Science Centre)
(Appendix 1)**

	Projected Out- turn 2005	Projected Budget 2006
Expenditure	£	£
Staff costs and operating costs	620,215	703,210
Income		
Visitor Revenue	290,609	411,959
Car Parks	109,689	110,500
DCC Revenue	28,704	29,060
DCC Endowment	15,000	15,000
Other Funding / Donations	176,787	136,614
Total	620,789	703,133
Surplus / Deficit	574	(77)