

11(a) TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION FUND - LOCHEE - OFFER OF GRANT (AN189-2009)

Members will be aware that officers, in consultation with elected members, submitted a bid to the Scottish Government Town Centre Regeneration Fund. The bid was based on the district centre of Lochee. The Council has now been advised that the Panel of Independent Assessors and Scottish Ministers have decided to offer an award of grant of £2.0m towards capital investment in respect of the Lochee bid. The offer of grant is less than the bid by £0.6m. The offer letter gives no indication that any element of the bid is disqualified rather it emphasises the original conditions in the bid application form. Prioritisation of elements of the bid therefore falls to the City Council.

The principal condition of the grant offer is that the investment must be made by 31st March, 2010. It is essential therefore, if full advantage is to be taken of this offer, that a mechanism for expedited approvals is put in place.

The bid had been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environmental assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management. There are no major issues. The bid is consistent with the Dundee Local Plan Review and the Lochee Physical Regeneration Framework.

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) note the offer of grant
- (b) remit appropriate officers to bring forward proposals to prioritise projects in line with the reduced offer, and
- (c) in light of the restricted timescales, delegate the Convener, Opposition spokespersons and ward members authority to approve an adjusted list of priorities.