

8 PUBLIC TRANSPORT FUND BIDS (AN238-2002)

The Scottish Executive has announced that this year is to be the fifth and final round of the Public Transport Fund (PTF). The PTF is targeted at providing value for money enhancements to public transport networks. Future arrangements for supporting local authorities' capital public transport projects are to be announced shortly.

The Local Transport Strategy prepared by Dundee City Council and the work undertaken in preparation this has given the Council and partner organisations a clear vision of the future of public transport in the City and the complementary sub-strategies required to move towards this. Seeking additional funding is a key element of delivery, enabling step changes in the provision of public transport and related transport developments to be made that otherwise could not take place or which would take many more years to achieve.

The council has been successful in all previous bids to the PTF, securing in the process a total of £5.635 million. This has been achieved by adopting a fully comprehensive approach to the development of the bids that ensures each bid is in line with the changing emphasis of the PTF which can be summarised as follows, greater emphasis on:

- meeting clear objectives set out in the Local Transport Strategy (LTS);
- partnership working, joint development and shared funding;
- projects that encourage modal shift, tackle congestion and enhance the capacity and quality of Scotland's public transport network; and
- projects with wider strategic benefits.

Dundee City Council has made two bids to the PTF this year with a joint value of £7.14 million. One is a bid to the Preparation Pool for a Public Transport Review to provide a 30 year vision for the City. A major review of public transport access and permeability in Dundee is proposed. The review is intended to consider a 30 year vision for all modes of transport in Dundee, particularly public transport and will specifically address the barrier the trunk road network presents to buses accessing the city from the outer housing estates.

The second bid, with the support of the local bus operators, is 'SMART BUS – Informing the Journey', which seeks to implement an extensive, city-wide renewal of bus stop facilities. SMART BUS will make available a high level of information at bus waiting facilities along all routes. Bus stops will be transformed into high quality, well lit, customer focused facilities to attract more public transport users and enhance the journey for existing users.

There are three components in the proposals:

- Real Time Information integrated into purpose built shelters at over 300 locations.
- Quality bus stop facilities at all 550 locations where shelters are not provided, to brand the routes and raise the image of bus use.
- In-bus surveillance cameras.

Copies of the bid documents are held by Group Secretaries and are displayed in the Members' lounge and Members are asked to note that these bids have been made. A full report will come back to Committee for approval should our bid be successful.