

**REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 17 FEBRUARY 2003**

**REPORT ON: CITIES REVIEW – PREPARATION OF CITY VISION AND SUBMISSION TO CITIES GROWTH FUND**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

**REPORT NO: 193-2003**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Following the completion of the Cities Review the Scottish Executive has invited each of the Cities to prepare 'City-Visions' and to submit these to the Executive by the end of May 2003. They have also invited the Cities to submit proposals for funding from the Cities Growth Fund within the same timescale; Dundee's allocation of this fund is £9.3m over the next three financial years.
- 1.2 This report proposes a methodology to prepare a 'City-Vision' for Dundee, an outline timetable and programme to meet the above targets and offers advice on possible projects for funding.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee;
- a agrees the proposed methodology for preparing Dundee's 'City-Vision'
  - b notes the possible projects for funding from the Cities Growth Fund
  - c remits the Director of Planning & Transportation to report to the Policy and Resources Committee on 21 April 2003 with recommendations on the contents of Dundee's final submission to the Scottish Executive.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.
- 3.2 The Scottish Executive have announced a £90m Cities Growth Fund and have allocated Dundee £9.3m over the next 3 financial years.
- 3.3 The Scottish Executive have also allocated Dundee £4m over the next 3 financial years from a £20m budget for vacant and derelict land renewal.

## **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Scottish Executive's report on the Cities Review 'Building Better Communities' emphasises the need for a sustainable approach to promoting growth and realising opportunities. This approach will be reinforced within Dundee's 'City-Vision'.

## 5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A major component of Dundee's input into the Cities Review was based on the need for broader social inclusion and this will continue to feature strongly in Dundee's 'City-Vision'

## 6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The 'City-Visions' require to be prepared through existing Community Planning partnership mechanisms. In Dundee's case it is very fortunate that the Dundee Partnership (led by the City Council) has already undertaken much of the necessary work as part of the preparation of the Community Plan. In addition, the city has a recently approved Structure Plan for Dundee and Angus and a newly approved Finalised Dundee Local Plan Review.
- 6.2 It is therefore proposed that in preparing a 'City-Vision', Dundee does not embark on a completely new visioning process, but instead utilises these already approved plans and strategies (which have been the subject of extensive consultation) as the basis of Dundee's 'City-Vision'.
- 6.3 In order to meet the tight timescales established by the Scottish Executive, it is proposed that the following programme of action and meetings be pursued;

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Action</b>
Fri 24 Jan	Dundee Partnership	Outline of 'Building Better Cities' proposals for Dundee including timetable and invitation to partners to submit suggestions for City Growth Fund
Mon 17 Feb	Special Policy and Resources Committee	Report outlining timetable, programme and possible projects.
Wed 19 Feb	Dundee Partnership	Report on the timetable, programme and possible projects for working up submission.
By End Feb	-	Submit Interim Submission to Scottish Executive.
Fri 18 April	Dundee Partnership Management Group	Endorse content of Final Submission including responses to consultation and City Vision.
Mon 21 April	Policy and Resources Committee	Report on Final Submission for agreement.
By end May	-	Submit Final Submission to Scottish Executive.

- 6.4 From a review of existing needs and priorities, it has been possible to identify a number of projects which could meet the Scottish Executive's City Growth Fund criteria and which achieve a long term benefit for Dundee.
- 6.5 One project which continually comes to the top of the city's priorities is the Central Waterfront Project. The Council and its partners have gone to great lengths to consult and secure community 'buy-in' to the Waterfront project and it meets with all the appropriate funding criteria. An assessment is being made of the technical feasibility of achieving a £9.3m spend on this project within the next 3 years. In the event that this proves to be difficult or inappropriate, other options are also under active consideration;
- a The Albert Street/Stobswell area regeneration initiative is another project which could be considered for funding, although it may be better suited as a bid for the £4m of Derelict and Vacant Land monies which have also been allocated to Dundee.
  - b There are also a number of key road junctions, particularly on the Kingsway, which require to be improved in the short to medium term and these may be capable of earlier implementation.
  - c There are currently proposals for investment in improving the public realm in the Cultural Quarter and the Albert Square area which are awaiting the availability of funding. These could also be implemented as early projects via the City Growth Fund.
- 6.6 This list is in no way exhaustive and many more suggestions will no doubt come forward from partner organisations, but it is intended that the available money be sufficiently focused in order to achieve a significant city impact rather than being spread too thinly and its civic benefit being lost in the process.

## **7 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning, have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None

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