

ITEM No ...7.....

REPORT TO: CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 6 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT ON: DUNDEE MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT - FUNDING REQUEST
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT
REPORT NO: 221-2021

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval of a grant of £20,000 to support Dundee Museum of Transport (DMofT) in redeveloping the former Maryfield Tram Depot as the DMofT's new permanent home.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a note the progress in relation to concluding a business plan for the project and in securing the necessary funding to allow the project to proceed.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Funding has been made available to support the project from Dundee City Council's £1.1m share of an additional £40m of additional funding was made available to Local Government from the Scottish Government in March 2021.

3.2 The allocation of £20k to support the development of the new site for the Transport Museum was included in the £1.1m additional funding approved for 2021/22 by P&R Committee (Article XIII of the minute of 26 April 2021 refers).

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 Current Offer

DMofT is a volunteer led collective which has built a collection of over 2,000 transport related artefacts. The museum, currently located in Market Mews, is open 6 days a week and tells the story of local transport pioneers and innovators as well as providing an exploration of a diverse range of vehicles from both local and national collections. Visitor numbers in the last year were 18,000. As well as providing a visitor offer, the DMofT also works in partnership with a range of charities and community organisations to provide additional opportunities including educational and volunteering to a wide variety of groups within the community. Visitor number growth at the current premises is limited by the size and condition of the rented building, as well as the lack of external space and modern facilities for a museum of this type.

Reference is made to Article XIII of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee on 26 April 2021 which agreed a contribution of £20,000 from Dundee City Council to support the development of a new site for the Dundee Museum of Transport.

4.2 Maryfield Tram Depot Site Ambition

An options appraisal undertaken by the DMofT looked at 3 other sites across the City and concluded the Maryfield site offered the best opportunity.

Maryfield Tram Depot is a 120-year-old “B” listed building which has fallen into serious disrepair and is currently a target for vandalism. The DMofT vision is to save the building before it is too late and to restore it to productive use by bringing it back to life as the permanent home of the museum. DMofT own Maryfield Tram Depot and its 2.4-acre site having acquired the site in 2015.

4.3 Expected Impact

The completed project will offer an enhanced visitor attraction to the city and wider region and provide additional facilities within a disadvantaged area of the city for local community use. It is expected to deliver the following economic benefits to the area:

- Increase in visitors with estimate of 60,000 visitors annually.
- 50 new jobs
- New high quality volunteering opportunities and skills/training
- Economic impact of £500,000 pa into the local economy

5 **CURRENT POSITION**

5.1 Pre-development activity has taken place and includes design, conservation and financial plans as well as the options appraisal and a business plan.

5.2 Officers from City Development have reviewed the initial business plan accompanying the request for funding. Further information was requested around funding, development timeline and the delivery model. An updated business plan responding to these has been received. This provides further detail which is assessed as sufficient at this stage of the project. Further detailed work will be required as the project progresses through its various funding applications in due course - particularly National Heritage Lottery Funding (NHLF).

5.3 The funding request of £20,000 from Dundee City Council will unlock a series of requirements which should help achieve the £4.1m total cost of the project. This includes commissioning reports required for planning approval (a planning application is due shortly); more detailed costing and appraisal works to support capital funding applications; further consultation with local people and groups; and conservation architect fees to further the Historic Environment Scotland application. It is a one off sum for budget year 2021/2022 and will be governed by a Grant Offer Letter developed in conjunction with Legal Services covering reporting criteria on spend and achievements.

5.4 The total cost of this project will be met through funding applications to NHLF, Historic Environment Scotland and Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) as well as local and private fundraising.

6 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. There are no major issues.

7 **CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

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