

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE -
27 MAY 2002**

**REPORT ON: CITY CENTRE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2002/2003**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 312-2002

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the allocation of the Central Area and Other Projects budget for 2002/2003.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee approves the net allocation of £150,000 towards North Commercial Street and the Murraygate junction, as the Council's contribution to the Environmental Programme for 2002/2003.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The total budget for the project in 2002/03 is £395,000 with contributions detailed as follows.
- 3.2 A contribution of £225,000 is to be made by Scottish Enterprise Tayside this financial year towards north Commercial Street, Murraygate junction and Nethergate south footway schemes.
- 3.3 The total contribution required to be made by Dundee City Council in 2002/2003 is £170,000 and allowances for this sum are included in the 2002/2003 Capital Estimates. This includes minor retention payments as follows.
- 3.4 Retention money of £17,000 towards Castlehill Environmental Improvements and £3,000 towards Littlewoods'/Boots' Corner Environmental Improvements, are due to be paid in 2002/2003 and are legally committed in the 2002/2003 Capital Estimates.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Environmental Programme will enhance the townscape of the City Centre and create a pleasant environment whilst enhancing the conservation area.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Environment Programme will result in the creation of an environment which is more family friendly and barrier free.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Dundee City Centre Initiative (CCI) 1997-2002 was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee in October 1997. The Strategy has four key aims, to make

Dundee a major regional shopping centre, a centre for business and academia, a vibrant cultural and visitor economy and a desirable residential location. The development of a high quality physical environment will assist in enabling the development of these aims. The City Centre Initiative Environmental Improvement Programme has been rebadged as the City Centre Regeneration Programme and has been extended to 2005 .

- 6.2 The Programme identifies north Commercial Street to be carried out during 2002/2003 and revision of the Murraygate/Commercial Street junction to be carried out over two years, 2002/2004. Commercial Street south was carried out as part of the Castlehill environmental improvement during 2000/2001. Members will also be aware that the construction of the Murraygate junction carried out as part of the first phase of the City Centre Initiative environmental improvements back in 1993/94, has failed, due to continuing presence of buses and service vehicles, which have caused the setted surface to break up. This has been a specification problem experienced at many environmental improvements throughout Scotland, where similar conditions have prevailed. This has resulted in a programme of research carried out by the SCOTS working group, a consortium of local authorities including Dundee City Council, Scottish Enterprise National and Heriot Watt University, to develop best practice both in remedial repairs and future specifications for environmental improvement work where heavy vehicles are present. The outcome of this research will form the identification of a solution for the Murraygate junction.
- 6.3 North Commercial Street involves an upgrading of the paving surface to Caithness stone, improvements to the bus stances and repairs to below pavement cellars. Plans of these proposals will be on display at Committee and it is expected that a contract for these works will be let in June and will be completed in December.
- 6.4 The Murraygate junction will be extensively reconstructed thus repairing the roadway using advanced construction methods established from the SCOTS research. It is the intention to uplift the sections of traditional setts between Seagate and north Commercial Street and relay the surface in a flexible polymer bound aggregate material in a colour to suit the adjacent floorscape materials, ie Townscape slab and pink and grey granite setts. Part of the central setted area will be relaid in new setts. The setted area will provide the visual pedestrian link between Murraygate and High Street across the junction. The tramlines will also be retained. Due to the budget programming, work on the junction will start towards the end of 2002 and extend into the next financial year. Further reports will be made to Committee for approval as part of the tender process.
- 6.5 Due to a lack of funds last year, the remaining two sections of south Nethergate footway improvement scheme between Union Street and Crichton Street were delayed until this financial year. It was also felt last year that if work were to take place on both sides of Nethergate/High Street at the same time, considerable disruption to public transport might take place. SET are funding the upgrading of Nethergate/High Street south in its entirety.

7 CONSULTATIONS

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

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Dundee City Centre Initiative Economic Development Strategy 1997-2002. Report No 596/97 Policy and Resources Committee.
- 8.2 Report No 245/1998.
- 8.3 Report No 73/1999.
- 8.4 Report No 229/2000.
- 8.5 Report No 212/2001.

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