

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT ON: CITY VISION AND CITIES GROWTH FUND SUBMISSIONS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 318-2003

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise on the outcome of the consultations undertaken on the Draft City Vision and to seek approval of a Final Draft of Dundee's City Vision and its submission to the Cities Growth Fund.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the various comments and suggestions made by consultees on the contents of Dundee's Draft City Vision are noted.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the resultant revised Final Draft of Dundee's City Vision be approved as the basis of Dundee's submission to the Scottish Executive.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Central Waterfront Project be submitted to the Scottish Executive for £9.3m of funding from the Cities Growth Fund.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the Stobswell Area Regeneration Project be submitted to the Scottish Executive for £4m of funding from the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the above recommendations.
- 3.2 The Scottish Executive have allocated £9.3m of funding to Dundee from the Cities Growth Fund on the following basis;

2003/04 – £2.1m
2004/05 – £3.1m
2005/06 – £4.1m

The Executive have advised that they plan to allow Councils to carry over any unspent City Growth Funds between financial years.

- 3.3 The Scottish Executive have allocated £4m of funding to Dundee from the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund on the following basis;

2003/04 – £0m
2004/05 – £2m
2005/06 – £2m

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 has been reinforced within Dundee's 'City-Vision' and sustainability issues are central to Dundee's approach to regenerating the City.

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 objective has continued to feature very strongly in Dundee's 'City-Vision'.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Policy & Resources Committee on 17 February 2003 approved a methodology for preparing a City Vision for Dundee in response to the Scottish Executive's 'Building Better Cities' policy report. On this basis, a draft City Vision was prepared and issued to all of Dundee's Community Planning partners, to adjoining Community Planning Partnerships and to the Scottish Executive.

- 6.2 The responses received to this consultation exercise were as follows;

a Scottish Enterprise Tayside

Congratulated the draft City Vision as an impressive and comprehensive document. Recommended that some minor refocusing would help to emphasise the priorities on creating a Healthy and Caring City as well as a Vibrant and Attractive City.

b NHS Tayside

Welcomed the draft City Vision as opportunities to identify where potential areas for health improvement will exist in the future, thereby helping to achieve an integrated approach to improving the health status of the people of Dundee.

c CAVA/SIP Board

Expressed thanks for the opportunity to be involved and gave broad support for the thrust of the City Vision.

d Scottish Churches Industrial Mission

Congratulates the preparation of such a comprehensive document and suggests that the final submission version could be enlivened with popular quotations about Dundee and/or from Dundonians.

e Perth & Kinross Council

Detailed comments have been received, the general tone of these relate to their concerns regarding increased competition between Dundee and Perth, changes to local authority boundaries and focusing the vision on Dundee alone.

f Angus Council

Again detailed comments have been received which are very similar in tone to those of Perth & Kinross.

g Fife Council

Welcomed the positive nature of the draft City Vision and provided detailed comments regarding transportation and future strategic planning arrangements. Expressed support for the Central Waterfront project bid for the Cities Growth Fund.

h Scottish Executive

Congratulated Dundee on preparing a very clear and positive response to the Executive's invitation to prepare a City Vision.

- 6.3 Most of the above comments have been welcomed as positive contributions to the process of preparing a City Vision and they have been incorporated into the final draft document. The remaining comments will be reported to the Scottish Executive as part of the City Vision submission.

Cities Growth Fund

- 6.4 The Policy & Resources Committee on 17 February 2003 noted that there were a number potential projects which could form the basis of Dundee's bid to the Cities Growth Fund, but that the one project which continually comes to the top of the city's partners' priorities is the Central Waterfront Project. This viewpoint was strongly echoed by the Dundee Partnership Forum on 26 February 2003 and 22 April 2003 when there was a unanimous view that it was correct to focus the Cities Growth Fund resources on a key project and that the Central Waterfront would have a significant impact on the economic well-being and sustainability of Dundee as a whole.
- 6.5 During further informal discussions with partners throughout the city on the use of the Cities Growth Fund, there have been no dissenting voices to the principle of focusing on the Central Waterfront Project.
- 6.6 Given the above and the extensive preparatory work which has already been undertaken in developing a Masterplan for the area's regeneration, it is proposed that the Central Waterfront Project be submitted to the Scottish Executive as Dundee's priority for the Cities Growth Fund. If this is agreed, a bid document will be prepared which will set out how the Cities Growth Fund resources will be used, how the project will be managed and implemented and what project outcomes will be achieved.

Vacant and Derelict Land Fund

- 6.7 The Policy & Resources Committee on 17 February 2003 also noted that the Albert Street/Stobswell/Baxter Park Area should be a priority for a future regeneration initiative, but that such a project may be better suited as a bid for funding from the Vacant and Derelict Land monies which the Scottish Executive has allocated to Dundee. Once again, this was strongly supported by the Dundee Partnership Forum on 26 February 2003 and 22 April 2003 when partners expressed

the view that focusing on Stobswell was justified by its status as a key gateway into the city, by its significance as the type of inner city area requiring urgent regeneration and by its range of emerging social problems.

- 6.8 The Partnership also were of the view that some kind of official 'stamp of approval' of Stobswell's priority status would be necessary to ensure that resources were secured, particularly in bringing the necessary 'soft' support in terms of action on unemployment, ill health, deprivation, etc which existing SIP areas can access.
- 6.9 It is, therefore, proposed that the Stobswell Area Regeneration Project be the focus for the available Vacant and Derelict Land monies which have been allocated to Dundee. The Scottish Executive have advised that they intend to establish a short life working group with the Council and the Dundee Partnership to agree on how these resources are to be used to tackle the legacy of urban dereliction. The Executive also intend to consult with Councils on how Urban Regeneration Companies or other similar mechanisms might be able to assist in focusing multi-agency efforts in the regeneration and renewal of areas such as Stobswell.

7 CONSULTATIONS

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

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Report 193/2003

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