

REPORT TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – 30 JUNE 2003
REPORT ON: ESTABLISHMENT OF A CITY HERITAGE TRUST FOR DUNDEE
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION
REPORT NO: 334-2003

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of the Scottish Executive's provision of funding for a new 'City Heritage Trust' for Dundee.
- 1.2 To maximise the potential of funding for historic environment projects in Dundee by proposing the establishment of a new City Heritage Trust.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
 - a Agrees to support the setting up of a 'City Heritage Trust' for Dundee.
 - b Remits the Director of Planning & Transportation to bring back detailed proposals to establish a 'City Heritage Trust' in cooperation with Historic Scotland, and in consultation with the voluntary and business sectors.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The 'City Heritage Trust' will be a grant making body largely funded by the Scottish Executive via Historic Scotland. It will be dependent on partnership funding from Dundee City Council and other organisations to secure long term support. Limited funding may be available from existing departmental budgets, by support 'in kind' (accommodation and facilities) and by diverting existing project budgets.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The 'City Heritage Trust' will make an important contribution to the Council's policies on sustainability; access to skills, knowledge and information; opportunities for culture and leisure and recreation; places, space and objects combine meaning and beauty with utility; diversity and local distinctiveness are valued and protected.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The 'City Heritage Trust' would be accessible to all sections of the community for educational and cultural purposes and encourage community involvement in the historic environment. Public access would further the Council's anti-poverty social inclusion objectives.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Scottish Executive has decided that four new 'City Heritage Trusts' will be set up for the cities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness and Stirling. The proposal and financial commitment came from Historic Scotland's participation in the Cities

Review. The existing equivalent trusts in Edinburgh and Glasgow have awarded £28 million and £2.21 million in grants since 1972 and 1990 respectively.

- 6.2 Dundee City Council has been provided with details of the Scottish Executive's expectations by Historic Scotland. There is no 'blueprint' for setting up the Dundee Trust – Historic Scotland is relying on the Council determining the role and priorities of the Trust.
- 6.3 The objectives of the Trust would be to support and encourage the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment in Dundee through a range of services. These would address local need, encourage and assist the repair of buildings by providing grants, encourage public realm works, provide consultation fees, and run events and services.
- 6.4 Much of this work would be an extension of the conservation services already provided by the Planning & Transportation Department. The Department's conservation service is provided by one conservation officer and this is insufficient for the workload required. It is envisaged that the Trust might assist with various tasks and take over responsibility for Doors Open Day.
- 6.5 The Trust would also liaise with the voluntary and business sectors – including Dundee Civic Trust, AHSS, TBPT, Community Councils, SET and Dundee Chamber of Commerce. The Trust is not intended to address the specific funding issues of Dundee Heritage Trust, but would be complimentary to that organisation.
- 6.6 The Trust would be a new organisation with a small staff and a board of 6-8 people with relevant experience and qualifications. It would aspire to independent premises but might initially use Council facilities.
- 6.7 The name 'Dundee Heritage Trust' is already in use and a working name of 'Dundee Historic Environment Trust' has been identified as being suitable thus avoiding conflict with the existing Trust and more accurately reflecting its wider role and associations.
- 6.8 The Trust should be set up this financial year. Indicative annual funding available from Historic Scotland is £200,000 plus £50,000 for administration costs. Historic Scotland is committed to funding the Trust for three years and anticipates continuing the funding thereafter. Partnership funding would be needed by year three to secure their long term funding. The requirement for the Council to make an annual contribution for the Trust will be difficult to achieve. It is suggested administration and budgets of both the Façade Enhancement Grant Scheme (FEGS) and Doors Open Day might be passed to the Trust, along with a small administration fee representing the saving to the Council. There would therefore be no additional cost in securing the long term future of the Trust budget from Historic Scotland.
- 6.9 This initiative will invest a minimum of £200,000 annually in the historic environment. Specific projects supported by the Trust will attract further funding from other sources, including funding that is inaccessible to the Council.
- 6.10 The Trust will address local need. There is constant local demand for grant assistance for historic building repairs for which the Council has no budget. Important listed building projects will remain eligible for Historic Scotland grants.

7 CONSULTATIONS

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

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 No relevant background papers.

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