

REPORT TO: RECESS SUB COMMITTEE – 15 JULY 2002

REPORT ON: ALBERT SQUARE – APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 570-2002

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval to commission consultants to develop design proposals for Albert Square and the area around McManus Galleries.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the appointment of Page and Park to develop the initial design work for Albert Square and the environs of McManus Galleries.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This is the second stage of a Dundee Partnership exercise and is to be jointly funded by Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Dundee City Council. The overall cost of this part of the study is £50,000 of which the Council will pay £20,000 with SET paying the balance. The Council's contribution is contained within the Planning and Transportation 2002/03 capital budget 'Central Area and Other Projects' heading.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 By the successful improvement of an important city centre open space, the distinctive character of the city centre will be enhanced and will assist in addressing a key theme of Dundee 21 "Places, spaces and objectives combine meaning and beauty with utility".

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The environmental improvements will take into account the needs of disabled and disadvantaged groups.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Planning & Transportation Committee of 29 October 2001 approved Report No 324-2001 Albert Square Environmental Improvement Consultants Brief (Item 8 refers). This approved a design brief for Albert Square, remitted the Director of Planning & Transportation to issue the brief to selected consultants and to report back on the findings of the study.
- 6.2 A selection panel consisting of officers of SET, DCC Leisure & Arts Department and Planning & Transportation Department met to consider the submissions and agreed those of Page and Park best fitted the brief and should be selected for further development.

- 6.3 The next stage of the exercise will be split into two parts. The first will develop a detailed sketch plan and test the ideas for practicality and prepare an indicative cost to ensure the project can be developed within the budget available. These will be presented to the Planning & Transportation Committee in October. Thereafter, there will be a consultation stage with interested parties during November and December, and development of the plans to a sufficient standard for submission of a planning application during January and February 2003. The programme thereafter will be dictated by the availability of funding.

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 None

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Director of Planning & Transportation

8 July 2002

MPG/MS

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