

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 17 OCTOBER 2005

REPORT ON: CITIES GROWTH FUND INVESTMENT PLAN BID 2006-08

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 629-2005

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the Committee's endorsement of the Investment Plan Bid for Cities Growth Fund 2006-08.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the Investment Plan Bid for the Cities Growth Fund 2006-08 which was forwarded to the Scottish Executive on 30 September 2005 to meet the required deadline.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee agree this Investment Plan is posted on the Council's web site.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

- 3.1 The Scottish Executive have indicated Dundee City Council and the Dundee Partnership can bid for £8.5M for the period 2006-08 as a second phase of the Cities Growth Fund. It is proposed to concentrate the grant entirely on developing the next phase of infrastructure for the Central Waterfront Development.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Reference is made to the Policy & Resources Committee of 19 May 2003, item 2, where the bid for the first round of the Cities Growth Fund of £9.3M was approved. This bid was to be entirely targeted at the Central Waterfront Development. This funding paid for a detailed engineering feasibility study, the Western Road re-alignment, the removal of the pedestrian overbridge from the railway station to the Nethergate Centre and an element is carrying forward to deal with the railway tunnel strengthening which has been delayed.
- 6.2 The Scottish Executive have indicated a second round grant of £8.5 million for 2006-08 for Dundee is to be made available subject to approval of an Investment Plan bid. A copy of this bid is available in the Members Lounge. The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted this to the Scottish Executive on 30 September 2005 to comply with the stipulated deadline. The Dundee Central Waterfront Project Partnership Board of 26 August 2005 noted this plan had been submitted to the City's Regional Partners for comment. It was agreed that the

Director of Planning and Transportation would formulate responses to any comments raised by Regional Partners on behalf of the Project Board and that this would be reported back to Members at the next meeting.

- 6.3 As with the first round grant from the Cities Growth Fund, it is proposed to concentrate the second round entirely on the Central Waterfront Development to enable work to be undertaken on the next stage of infrastructure. The guidance issued by the Scottish Executive notes that "some projects will focus on the City itself and its infrastructure, recognising that a thriving city centre "hub" is vital for the economic health and regeneration of the surrounding City-Region. With smaller cities the balance of projects may need to be weighted more heavily in favour of the city itself so as to get optimal benefit from the funding allocation." It is considered that this is very much the case when considering the broader impact and regional significance of Dundee's Waterfront and, therefore, adds additional weight to the case for continuing to focus Cities Growth Fund resources in this project.
- 6.4 The responses from Dundee's City Region partners are appended to the Investment Plan Bid. (Copies available in the Members lounges)

7 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning), Director of Economic Development, the Dundee Central Waterfront Project Partnership Board, Fife Council, Perth & Kinross Council, Angus Council have been consulted.

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10 October 2005

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