

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE,
12 DECEMBER 2005**

**REPORT ON: SCOTTISH TRANSPORT AWARDS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT
INITIATIVES**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 701-2005

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Committee of Dundee City Council's success at the recent Scottish Transport Awards and the implementation of the final phase of 'SmartBus' public transport initiatives in the city.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the success of Dundee City Council at the recent Scottish Transport Awards, the positive reaction by the travelling public and approve the continued implementation of 'SmartBus' public transport initiatives.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Dundee City Council has received a grant of £424,398 from the Scottish Executive under Section 70 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 which will allow the final phase of the SmartBus project to be implemented during financial year 2005/06.
- 3.2 All costs associated with the transport initiatives outlined within the report will be met from this grant.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The public transport initiatives promoted within this report are aimed at providing a travel alternative to the private car and as such will contribute to the protection of Dundee's environment. In addition, these initiatives promote sustainable energy consumption through the use of solar power.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The schemes promoted within this report are aimed at improving public transport for the benefit of all Dundee's citizens, whether or not they have access to a car or are able bodied or have a disability, thus ensuring Dundee's transport network caters for all.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Earlier this year Dundee City Council were short listed in 5 categories for the Scottish Transport Awards; Scottish Transport Local Authority of the Year; Travel Information; Roads Safety; Technology; Most Innovative Transport Project in Scotland and the prestigious top award, Scottish Transport Local Authority of the Year.

- 6.2 The awards ceremony was held on 28 November 2005 in Edinburgh and Dundee City Council were awarded the top award for the year, Scottish Transport Local Authority of the Year.
- 6.3 This award recognise the achievements of Dundee City Council on delivering real improvements to the city's transport infrastructure. Dundee City Council was recognised as a progressive local authority that works with its citizens and in partnership with a number of organisations to achieve a transport product that is truly integrated and targeted at the needs of its population.
- 6.4 In addition to achieving a complete modernisation of the public transport system with new vehicles, high quality passenger facilities and a step change in information provision, a range of transport initiatives have been put in place. Policies pursued to delivery include community transport; vehicle brokerage; wheelchair accessible taxis; smartcard travel concession, green circular cycle route; reallocation of road space; decriminalisation of parking; 20 mph speed limits at schools; travel awareness campaigns; travel plans where transport solutions continue to be pursued enthusiastically.
- 6.5 Dundee City Council has just completed a major public transport project - 'Bringing Confidence into Public Transport' (BCPT) - which has provided high quality on-street facilities in the city centre together with a step-change in information available. A second project that is ongoing at present is 'SmartBus' and this project aims to extend the quality achieved in the city centre throughout the entire city.
- 6.6 These developments have led to Dundee City Council having the first Bus Quality Partnership Agreement in the United Kingdom.
- 6.7 This award is also further evidence of the continued improvement to transport in Dundee and reinforce the positive results of public surveys. Public surveys regarding the quality of bus travel in Dundee were undertaken in 2003 and again in 2005 and show a significant improvement in the public's perception. The main results found are summarised below:

Bus Users

- Percentage of people satisfied or very satisfied by the standard of Public Transport Information provided in the city centre/Ninewells Hospital has increased from 50% to 70%.
- Percentage of people satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of bus shelters and bus stops in city centre/Ninewells Hospital has increased from 42% to 77%.
- Percentage of people satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of buses within Dundee has increased from 60% to 70%.
- Percentage of people satisfied or very satisfied with ease of boarding and alighting buses in the city centre is now 82%.
- 79% of people feel safe waiting for a bus in the city centre.
- 80% of people feel safe travelling on a bus in Dundee.
- 75% of people are satisfied or very satisfied with the overall image of bus travel in Dundee.
- 7% of people have started using the bus or are making more journeys by bus in the past 6 months.

Non Bus Users

- Only 10% of people were unsatisfied with the overall image of bus travel in Dundee.
- 3% of people have started using the bus or make more journeys by bus in the past 6 months.

6.8 A further survey is to be carried out in 2006 and it is expected that this survey will show a significant further improvement in the perception and use of bus travel in the city as the 'SmartBus' project will be completed by then.

6.9 The final phase of the 'SmartBus' project is about to commence and this involves providing high quality bus stop poles, flags and information at 600 stops to enhance the modern image of bus travel in Dundee. At each stop there will be a modern design of flag which utilises bus service number panels, complies with Department for Transport advice for the visually impaired and incorporates solar panels to illuminate highly visual paper information housed in a bespoke waterproof panel.

6.10 The Scottish Executive made an official offer of grant for £424,398 on 6 October 2005 to Dundee City Council which will allow this final phase of SmartBus to be implemented.

7 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None

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30 November 2005

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