

REPORT TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – 12 DECEMBER 2005

REPORT ON: DUNDEE CENTRAL WATERFRONT - DOCK STREET TUNNEL

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 717-2005

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee on progress to date with investigations and design of the Dock Street Tunnel Strengthening project and to seek authority to proceed as recommended.

2 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report and:

- 2.1 Authorise the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) to agree the final wording and on behalf of Dundee City Council enter into an Asset Protection Agreement with Network Rail; and
- 2.2 Approve the expenditure of £276,000 required for the Asset Protection Agreement and to complete new investigation and design work to establish the Agreed Maximum Price (AMP).

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

- 3.1 The Depute Chief Executive (Finance) has confirmed that funding for the above expenditure can be met from the Cities Growth Fund allocations for 2005/06 and 2006/07.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The project design will include waste minimisation and sustainable construction best practices. The revised design solution will minimise the risk of noise disturbance to residents in the area and avoid significant disruption to the rail network.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Reference is made to article 3 of the Recess Sub-Committee of 11 July 2005 when authority was granted to enter into a Basic Services Agreement with Network Rail for the development of the Dock Street Tunnel Strengthening project. Further reference is made to the Planning and Transportation Committees of 9 May 2005 and 21 March 2005 when authority was granted to incur investigation and design costs in developing an AMP with AMCO Ltd and Donaldson Associates within an overall project allowance of £8.495m.
- 6.2 Since then a great deal of work has been undertaken to assess the strengthening options and developing design solutions. As a result of this work, Network Rail have agreed to a fundamental change in the design approach for the tunnel strengthening which will significantly reduce the risk to the Council and will result in cost savings for the works.
- 6.3 These changes in the design will remove the need for rail blockades to be imposed and will therefore avoid the need to pay compensation costs to the train operating company which could have amounted to some £2.3m. In addition, the revised design solution will avoid the need for extensive periods of overnight working and the attendant concerns over noise for residents in the area. In order to fully develop the revised design solution, the programmed start date for the works has been put back from January 2006 to approximately June 2006.

- 6.4 In order to progress with the finalisation of the design, development and construction of the works, it is necessary to enter an Asset Protection Agreement with Network Rail. The Asset Protection Agreement sets out the roles, responsibilities and liabilities of both Network Rail and the Council for carrying out the works to the tunnel and its future maintenance and renewal. It also sets out the services that Network Rail are to provide and the costs associated with this. The preparation of the Asset Protection Agreement is nearing completion. Once this has been finalised to the satisfaction of the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), approval is sought to enter the Asset Protection Agreement at an estimated cost of £150,000, for which allowances have been made in previous estimates.
- 6.5 Further site investigation works and design development required to allow an AMP to be agreed will result in additional costs of £126,000. These additional costs will be contained within the previously approved overall cost of £8.495m. In order to contain any additional costs at this stage, AMCO Ltd have agreed to their further staff costs being absorbed by them on an 'at risk' basis until an AMP has been agreed.
- 6.6 The phasing of expenditure is anticipated as £115,000 in 2005/06 and £161,000 in 2006/07.

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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KL/FW/EH

1 December 2005

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