

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE –
2 DECEMBER 2002**

**REPORT ON: BRINGING CONFIDENCE INTO PUBLIC TRANSPORT –
APPOINTMENT OF DESIGN CONSULTANTS**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 799-2002

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Scottish Executive awarded Dundee City Council £2.31m from its Public Transport Fund, to develop improved public passenger facilities in the city centre. A design competition has been held to select a design consultant to develop proposals for the design of these facilities. This report outlines details of the design competition and seeks members' approval to appoint the winning design consultant.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Nicoll Russell Studios be appointed as consultant for the design development of the public transport passenger facilities.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Scottish Executive Public Transport Award (PTF) to Dundee City Council is £2.31m, £1.13m of which is to be expended on the city centre interchanges project.
- 3.2 The consultants fees will be approximately 10% of the city centre interchange budget.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The study is aimed at encouraging an alternative transport mode to the car and as such will contribute to the protection of Dundee's environment.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The study is aimed at improving public transport for the benefit of all Dundee's citizens; thus ensuring Dundee's transport network caters for all.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Members are aware that Dundee has been very successful in bidding for financial support from the Scottish Executive Public Transport Fund (PTF). Members will recall that when submitting for the 2002/03 bidding round, the Planning and Transportation Department identified that poor service information and customer facilities were a major barrier to increased bus patronage within Dundee. The bid was therefore constructed around an initiative, which was designed to significantly improve this situation at key transport nodes in the city. This initiative was given the title of "Bringing Confidence to Public Transport" (BCPT). The Committee was advised at its meeting on 24 June 2000 that because of the highly sensitive nature of

- the Whitehall Street area, its historical significance and the need to protect the quality streetscape, a design competition to provide high quality public transport facilities in the City Centre as part of the BCPT project should be held.
- 6.2 The BCPT package will provide two key improvement elements, firstly, improved facilities in the form of three new high quality on-street bus interchanges in the city centre at Whitehall Street, St Andrew's Street and Victoria Road, and secondly, a step change in the quality and quantity of information available to public transport users.
- 6.3 A Brief for the Design Competition was prepared, in order that the individual planning, environmental, operational and financial constraints of the various locations could be properly addressed. The Brief outlined a number of study objectives and asked that two particular issues should be fully addressed.
- a The Designer was required to demonstrate that the design of the public transport interchanges takes cognisance of existing environmental issues including air quality, noise and visual impact, and that the final design would not have any detrimental impact on the environment.
 - b In respect of Whitehall Street in particular, the design of any interchange structures should not in any way dominate the street. The importance of the special architectural and townscape quality of the Whitehall Street/Crescent area was given particular emphasis in the Brief.
- 6.4 The Brief was issued to four firms of architects, all with a proven award winning design quality track record and experience in designing public transport facilities. The four consultants were all Scottish and where possible, locally based.
- 6.5 The assessment of the design submissions and presentations was carried out by a panel comprising the Director of Planning and Transportation, Planning and Transportation staff and representatives from Environmental and Consumer Protection Department and JMP Limited, the Council's appointed BCPT Project Managers. The design competition was adjudicated by the panel using a strict marking framework. The key assessment criteria were:
- a design quality.
 - b application of best practice.
 - c operational characteristics.
 - d environmental impact.
 - e value for money.
- 6.6 Following the receipt of submissions and presentations by each of the firms of architects, the panel recommends the appointment of local architects Nicoll Russell Studios, to take forward the design of the public transport facilities, initially to public consultation stage.
- 6.7 There are a number of formal consents, eg Traffic Orders, Waiting Orders and Planning Consents, which will all include formal consultation procedures with affected parties. However, in advance of these processes, informal consultation will be undertaken with all relevant parties (including local residents, business, bus companies, passengers, etc) before finalising any proposals. These will then be

reported to Committee for authority to proceed to submit any necessary applications for consent.

7 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning, and all partners in the BCPT study, have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Planning and Transportation Report No 384/2001, dated 25 June 2001.

8.2 Planning and Transportation Report No 184/2002, dated 25 March 2002.

8.3 Planning and Transportation Report No 475/2002, dated 24 June 2002.

8.4 Briefing Note – Public Transport in Whitehall Street.

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