

REPORT TO: CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT ON: CAPITAL GRANT TO DUNDEE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE FOR DISCOVERY POINT
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT
REPORT NO: 114-2020

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to pay Dundee Heritage Trust £50,000 as Dundee City Council's contribution towards capital works at Discovery Point and to carry forward the balance of £200,000 contained in the Capital Plan to 2020/21.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that approval be given for Dundee City Council to pay Dundee Heritage Trust a capital grant of £50,000 for expenditure incurred in 2019/20 and carry forward the remainder of the grant to 2020/21 to enable the Trust to develop and implement Phase 2 of its plans for Discovery Point, as per the 2020-25 Capital Plan.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 This expenditure will be met from the Council's Capital Plan 2020-25 which contains an allowance of £250,000 for Dundee Heritage Trust for Discovery Point.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Reference is made to Article II of the minute of meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee of 12th February 2015, whereby approval was given to a capital grant of £500,000 to Dundee Heritage Trust for improvement works to Discovery Point, to enhance the visitor experience as part of the Council's capital plan.

4.2 Furthermore, reference is made to Article VII of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24th April 2017, whereby the Committee approved a grant of £250,000 to Dundee Heritage Trust to deliver the first phase of these works (Report No 153-2017). The total project cost of phase one was £568,000, with the balance of funding secured by Dundee Heritage Trust from the Coastal Communities Fund (£268,000) and from smaller trusts and foundations. This project was delivered to coincide with the opening of their new neighbour – V&A Dundee – in September 2018.

4.3 This spend left a balance of £250,000 for Dundee Heritage Trust to call on for future phases of the work.

4.4 Dundee Heritage Trust is now preparing for the second, larger phase of redevelopment works at Discovery Point. This second phase will require payment of the final tranche of Dundee City Council's grant.

4.5 Dundee Heritage Trust has been developing its vision for Discovery Point in recent years, culminating in a bid to the Tay Cities Deal Culture & Tourism Investment Programme in 2019. The Trust is seeking £2.5m from the Programme to support ambitious plans to regenerate Discovery Point and create a number of new attractions within the building. It is anticipated that the project will leverage a further £7.5m of private and public match funding.

4.6 The aim of this phase of Discovery Point's redevelopment is to establish four new, very different, individually branded and marketed tourist attractions for the city. These are:

- **Climate Change Gallery:** this brand new gallery space will focus on Dundee's role in climate change both historically and currently. This will include the role that RRS Discovery played in early awareness of climate through Antarctic exploration through to the modern day, focusing on the heritage "in the making" on the single most important issue of our time. Both the public and funders alike have a significant interest in this sector.
- **Dome Experience:** this will enable the Trust to make use of the Dome at the top of Discovery Point, creating a visitor attraction in its own right. This will include a "destination" art work by a leading environmental artist; an unrestricted 360° view of the city/waterfront with low tech storyboards and a high tech immersive VR experience developed with Abertay University to show visitors the Dundee skyline of 1901. The space will also be available as high-end event and entertaining space – adding further to the economic offer.
- **Temporary Exhibition Space:** creating a new gallery space for temporary and special exhibitions to help grow repeat visits.
- **River facing destination café/restaurant/conference venue:** a new two-storey extension to the rear of Discovery Point offering stunning views overlooking RRS Discovery, V&A Dundee and the River Tay, maximizing the unique riverside location. The project will create a new destination restaurant/café and flexible conferencing space.

4.7 The project will also ensure that the Trust is able to preserve the core heritage asset, the RRS Discovery. Work to date has included a full survey of the ship to enable them to visualise, plan and cost the work required to secure the ship's future. Plans also include enclosing the existing balconies overlooking the ship in glass to further enhance the event/conference facilities available. The existing visitor experience (reception, galleries, shop) will also be fully refurbished to create a modern attraction to meet the demands and expectations of visitors.

4.8 Dundee Heritage Trust is requesting a payment in 2019/20 of £50,000 from the remaining Dundee City Council capital grant. In 2019/20 Dundee Heritage Trust has been developing the plans for the next phase of the redevelopment at Discovery Point. The organisation has provided invoices totaling £50,000 during this period, which cover costs such as design/architectural work, M&E surveys, Quantity Surveyors to cost the plans and ship survey, required to enable them to cost the works required on board.

4.9 The remaining element of Dundee Heritage Trust's DCC grant (£200,000) is to be carried forward to 2020/21 when it will be drawn down to support the on-going redevelopment of Discovery Point.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6. CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

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In view of the timescales involved this report was approved by Robin Presswood, Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Convener of the City Development Committee, Labour Group Spokesperson, Conservative Group Spokesperson, Liberal Democrat Group Spokesperson, the Independent Member and the Lord Provost.

Robin Presswood

Executive Director of City Development

Date 6th April 2020

Alan Ross

Convener of City Development Committee

Date 6th April 2020

Richard McCready

Labour Group Spokesperson

Date 7th April 2020

Derek Scott

Conservative Group Spokesperson

Date 7th April 2020

Fraser Macpherson

Liberal Democrat Group Spokesperson

6th April 2020

Gregor Murray

Independent Member

Date 7th April 2020

Ian Borthwick

Lord Provost

Date 7th April 2020