

**24 SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE BUS ROUTE DEVELOPMENT GRANT - CROSS-CITY DIRECT (AN126-2005)**

Committee is asked to note that Dundee City Council, in partnership with Strathtay Scottish and Travel Dundee, NHS Tayside and SET, have been awarded £1.771 million, from the Scottish Executive's Bus Route Development Fund, to allow the introduction of a new bus service to the City of Dundee. The Bus Route Development Fund allows bus services to be introduced, meeting the financial costs associated with new routes, with three year start up funding. Bus operators are then expected to continue services without any ongoing financial support. £12.5 million was awarded across Scotland with Dundee being the second highest award in the Country.

This revenue funding will allow high frequency/high quality bus service to address increasing demand for east to west cross city journeys. This will improve access to health, education, retail and employment with an excess of 60,000 residents being within a few minutes walk of the service. In addition to an improved bus service, Dundee City Council and SET will jointly construct a bus only section of road, linking the Dundee Technology Park with Ninewells Hospital and the Medipark, greatly reducing journey times for public transport users.

Copies of the bid document are available in the Councillor's Lounges.

It is hoped to introduce the new service in Autumn 2005.