

## ITEM No ...7.....

**REPORT TO:** CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 24 APRIL 2017  
**REPORT ON:** CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AT DISCOVERY POINT  
**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT  
**REPORT NO:** 153-2017

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To gain Committee approval for the expenditure of capital funds at Discovery Point.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.2 It is recommended that the Committee approves the expenditure of Council capital funds on improvements to visitor facilities at Discovery Point.

### **2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 2.1 The proposal is to expend £241k of Council capital funds in 2017/18 for Design Fees and improvements works to Discovery Point.
- 2.2 Dundee Heritage Trust has applied for a further £258K from the Coastal Communities Fund for this improvement project. It is hoped this will be successful in the near future.
- 3.3 The entire project cost are £564k. The remaining match funding of £65,000 has been secured by Dundee Heritage Trust from a combination of charitable trust support and the new museums exhibition tax relief scheme.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the Policy & Resources Committee of 31 October 2015 Councillors approved capital funding to Dundee Heritage Trust of £500k for future improvement works to Discovery Point.
- 3.2 The proposed project will facilitate the regeneration of one of Dundee's key visitor attractions, Discovery Point, to improve the visitor experience, making sure that it attracts and engages both leisure and business tourists. Discovery Point will be upgraded to the highest standard possible in readiness for the V&A Museum of Design Dundee, opening in 2018 to ensure that both attractions can benefit fully from the expected increase in visitor numbers.

- 3.3 The project supports investment in three keys areas of the museum:

Galleries and Visitor Experience – upgrading the visitor offer to create a compelling and more impactful visitor experience. Developing new exhibits and interpretation, including exploration and science in Antarctica. The galleries would encompass a variety of interpretation – new graphics, AV shows, computer and hands on interactives as well as displaying more of the Trust's polar collection, which is of national importance.

Learning suite – development of a gallery space into a learning centre to attract and engage a wider range of audiences with learning/skills development opportunities across a spectrum of subjects including environmental science, exploration, geography and social history.

Conferencing and Events space – rationalising and re-configuring existing rooms to enable the centre to attract a wider range of corporate/events business.

- 3.4 The capital development will be supported by new and additional marketing and PR to ensure greater public awareness of the new facilities and improved visitor offer.
- 3.5 The upgrade of the internal spaces at Discovery Point will enable Dundee Heritage Trust to attract more leisure and corporate events and visitors and generate more income which will support the sustainability of the organisation, ensuring it can continue to deliver as a key visitor attraction for the city and play an important role in the future development of Dundee as a tourism destination.
- 3.6 The funding in 2017/18 is for professional fees - Architect, Designer, Mechanical and Electrical, Quantity Surveyors and Structural Engineers to develop the capital project plans to RIBA Stage 4 (a) Building Warrant and to undertake the physical works.
- 3.7 Dundee Heritage Trust have applied to the Coastal Communities Fund and hope to be awarded £258K in the near future. The remaining funding of £65k will come from a combination of charitable trust support and the new museums exhibition tax relief scheme.
- 3.8 Dundee Heritage Trust has also submitted a Tay Cities Deal proposal for a £6 million development that will provide further enhancement to Discovery Point to creating a museum that portrays the story of RRS *Discovery* and the men who journeyed on her in new and engaging ways. This will be delivered under the strapline "*Made in Dundee: Designed for Adventure*". The project will touch all aspects of the visitor journey, initial visitor orientation, the flow of the experience, its contents and their presentation, its learning spaces, the positioning and effectiveness of its commercial areas and RRS *Discovery* herself.
- 3.9 If successful this will be the subject of future Committee reports for additional supportive funding from the City Council's remaining capital allocation of £259k. There would also be associated applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 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.

#### **5 CONSULTATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

#### **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 None

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