

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2002

REPORT ON: PROPOSALS FOR UTILISING THE REALLOCATION OF SCOTTISH BUDGET RESOURCES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT NO: 649-2002

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the proposals submitted to and approved by the Scottish Executive, in order to fully utilise the sum of £2.9m, allocated to the City Council from the Scottish Budget resources.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Policy & Resources Committee is asked to approve the proposed utilisation of the £2.9m additional resources offered from the Scottish Executive as detailed in Appendix A. The Scottish Executive has confirmed its approval to the Council's proposals.

2.2 To authorise Chief Officers to proceed to undertake the proposed projects in accordance with the Council's financial regulations. Tenders will be invited, in accordance with Standing Orders and reported to Committee in the normal way. Where, in view of the timescale to complete the works, ie 31 March 2003, more urgent approval is required, the Chief Officer will approve the expenditure in consultation with the Convener and the Spokespersons from the opposition groups.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 With the Scottish Executive having approved the City Council's proposals, then the Council will be able to implement the expenditure proposals totalling £2.9m in the current financial year and these will be fully funded by the provision of additional Scottish Executive grant aid.

3.2 It must be stressed that these additional resources of £2.9m are available for the current year only and there is no commitment to additional allocations in future years.

3.3 The overall effect of both the additional expenditure and grant aid on the Council's 2002/03 Revenue Budget and General Fund balances will be neutral.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

A number of the proposals submitted by the Council will have significant beneficial effects on the local environment. In particular, the proposals for traffic calming and road safety measures, dog fouling, litter campaign, removal of graffiti, improved street cleaning and abandoned cars. The proposed environmental improvements at the Law Hill and Broughty Ferry beach will improve the immediate environment at these sites for both Dundee residents and visitors.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposals submitted to the Scottish Executive contained a number of proposals which will improve the quality of life, social equality and access to opportunities. In particular those proposals dealing with health promotion and leisure access.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 On 26 June 2002, the Minister for Finance and Public Services announced his proposals for the redeployment of resources within the Scottish Budget for the current financial year. Included within that redeployment was an allocation of an additional £95m to Scottish local authorities for supporting children and young people and improving the local environment.
- 6.2 The City Council was asked to confirm its acceptance of its share of this additional allocation, being £2.9m, and to submit to the Scottish Executive by 24 July 2002, its spending proposals to be funded from this allocation.
- 6.3 In the letter advising the council of the additional allocation, the Minister explained that the Scottish Executive expected the funds to be used to help support the following themes:-
- Supporting children and young people, with the emphasis on "making healthy choices the easy choices"
 - Local environment with the emphasis on quality of life; visible impact; tackling community concerns
- 6.4 During the month of July, the Council's Chief Officers developed proposals which would meet the Scottish Executive themes referred to above, and these were required to be submitted by 24 July 2002. This submission is enclosed as Appendix A.
- 6.5 In the covering letter to the Scottish Executive, the Chief Executive explained that this submission would require to be ratified by a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.
- 6.6 The City Council received a letter from the Scottish Executive on 12 August 2002, advising the Council that the Ministers have confirmed their approval of the proposals as submitted on 24 July 2002.

7 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services and all other Chief Officers have been consulted in arriving at the enclosed submission (Appendix A).

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DAVID K DORWARD
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

DATE:

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

D/ID/26.7.02

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL - PROPOSAL FOR UTILISING ADDITIONAL RE-ALLOCATED FUNDS (£2.9M)

<u>POLICY THEME/PROPOSAL</u>	INDICATIVE ALLOCATION (£000)	KEY BENEFITS
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE		
Drinking Water in Schools	309	Installation of four mains fed water cooling units in each primary school in the City. This follows the recommendation of the report "Hydration for All", which encourages local authorities to provide easy access to drinking water. Research has demonstrated that hydrated children are more attentive and engage better in learning and teaching processes. To launch the project, DCC-liveried sports refillable water bottles will be distributed to all primary school pupils.
	25	Installation of water cooling units in each Child & Family Centre and in other Social Work establishments across the City. This ties-in with the schools project outlined above.
Healthy Promotion, Health Eating & Healthy Choices	273	The development and implementation of a Council Health Promoting School Strategy that will bring together a range of health priorities in schools. It will meet key stated aims of the Education Department's Development Plan 2002 - 2005 and a specific target of National Priority 2. The additional funding will enable 10 pilot schemes to be established across the City. In addition, a programme of health promotion events aimed at young people will take place at Neighbourhood Centres across the City. This will cover areas such as healthy eating/choices, fitness classes, smoking cessation, complementary therapy sessions etc.
carried forward	607	

<u>POLICY THEME/PROPOSAL</u>	INDICATIVE ALLOCATION (£000)	KEY BENEFITS
brought forward	607	
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE (Contd)		
	225	A new Dental Health Promotion project will seek to raise awareness of dental health and hygiene. Free toothpaste and toothbrushes will be issued, in conjunction with advice on dental care. It may be possible to lever external sponsorship, thereby increasing the overall scope and impact of the project.
Swimming Lessons	98	A "Cafe Discovery" will be established at a number of secondary schools in the City. This will promote social inclusion and healthy eating choices and will also lead to an improvement in ethos and a reduction in vandalism over the lunchtime period.
Swimming Lessons	98	A promotion to "Learn to Swim for £1" will be launched. This will involve a 6-month programme of reduced price swimming lessons at Council facilities across the City. The programme will be delivered by the Council's Leisure & Arts Department, by Swimming Clubs and through after-school classes at school pools. This initiative will lead to a significant increase in the number of children who are able to swim 25 metres.
Healthy Eating, Leisure Access, Inclusion etc	300	A Young Persons Citizen card will be issued to 10,000 school pupils giving them access to health eating through a cash-less catering system, access to learning through library membership, access to subsidised leisure facilities and will promote the benefits of "Young Scot". Cash-less catering will remove the stigma from free school meals thereby increasing take-up by an estimated 15-20%.
carried forward	1,230	

<u>POLICY THEME/PROPOSAL</u>	INDICATIVE ALLOCATION (£000)	KEY BENEFITS
brought forward CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE (Contd)	1,230	
Leisure Access, Health Promotion etc	26	Provision of additional equipment and consumables at Learning Centres and Homework Clubs which have been established in libraries and resource centres across the City.
	21	"Access All Areas" initiative to promote access to leisure, learning and employment for young people with additional needs. This will benefit young people from disadvantaged communities. The target group is young people with mental health, emotional or behavioural difficulties who require support to access leisure, learning and employment opportunities.
	15	Provision of physical activity play equipment for child and family centres and outreach centres. This will allow the purchase of "Little Gym" equipment packs for those child and family centres that have not already had these purchased through SIPS funding. This will make an important contribution to promoting healthy and active lifestyles for young children
	21	Training, materials and equipment for child and family centre staff to provide "healthy living" services for children in need and their families. This will allow the development of skills in health promotion and equip staff to work with NHS colleagues to promote healthy living and provide training to parents in a range of healthy living skills.
	23	Purchase of sports equipment and access to sports activities and tuition for looked after young people. This will increase access for young people in residential units to physical activities and exercise, thus improving their health, general well-being and personal development.
carried forward	1,336	

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<u>POLICY THEME/PROPOSAL</u>	INDICATIVE ALLOCATION (£000)	KEY BENEFITS
brought forward	1,336	
OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT		
Traffic Calming/road Safety	300	Introduction of traffic calming and road safety measures at various locations across the City. This will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, thereby having a favourable impact on accident statistics.
Dog Fouling, Litter Campaigns, Graffiti & Vandalism etc	67	Provision of additional dog bags and dog bins and a general "clean-up" at various locations across the City. Members of the public are encouraged to remove dog waste and deposit it in the bins provided. The Council's strategy in this area is now showing signs of success and the additional funding will assist in tackling this high public-profile issue.
	74	Provision of additional litter bins and litter "pick-ups" in the City Centre and at various locations across the City. The ability to deal quickly and effectively with litter has a significant positive impact on peoples' perception of the City, both residents and visitors.
	114	Removal of graffiti and "clean-ups" at various locations across the City.
	20	Purchase of Edge Pressure Washer to improve the efficiency of City Centre cleaning operations. This machine is particularly effective in removing discarded chewing gum, a problem which has been a blight on pedestrianised areas within the City Centre.
carried forward	1,911	

<u>POLICY THEME/PROPOSAL</u>	INDICATIVE ALLOCATION (£000)	KEY BENEFITS
brought forward	1,911	
OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT (Contd)		
Abandoned Cars	7	The Council's strategy in this area has been very successful in terms of dealing with complaints quickly and effectively. The additional funding will assist greatly in tackling this high public-profile issue.
Recycling, Environment etc	472	A number of items of plant and equipment will be purchases to assist in the processing of civic amenity waste. This will result in an increase in the Council's recycling rate, a reduction in the amounts of waste put to landfill and will have a generally positive impact on the environment.
General Environment	68	Various environmental works at Law Hill, a popular visitor location for both residents and tourist. These measures will include improvements to paths and roadways, thinning of planted areas, improved public access to walkways and improvements to the public viewpoint.
	45	Infrastructure works will be undertaken at Broughty Ferry beach to ensure that Blue Flag status is achieved in 2003/2004. This will have a positive impact on the opportunities for sports and recreation at this location.
carried forward	2,503	

<u>POLICY THEME/PROPOSAL</u>	INDICATIVE ALLOCATION (£000)	KEY BENEFITS
brought forward	2,503	
OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT (Contd)		
Neighbourhood Safety Lighting	300	Conversion of street lighting lanterns from low pressure sodium orange to white light. Recent local and national surveys indicate that the public prefer white light and this measure will therefore assist in reducing the fear of crime. White light improves visual appearance and colour definition, increasing reaction times of both motorists and pedestrians thus improving road safety. There will also be improved recognition on CCTV camera images. This project will ensure that electrical installation complies with current legislation, thereby reducing the risk of injury to the public. The newer technology equipment will increase the overall reliability of the street lighting network. Energy consumption will be reduced by 30% reducing greenhouse gases and protecting the environment.
	75	A programme to upgrade lighting in parks, with the benefits as outlined above.
Home Safety	22	Implementation of crime prevention measures including strengthened doors, mortice locks, door chains, spy-holes, security lights, etc. These measures will help reduce house-hold crime and will also reduce the fear of crime.
Grand Total	2,900	