

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
30 APRIL 2001**

**REPORT ON: CITY CENTRE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2001/2002**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 212-2001

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the allocation of the Central Area and Other Projects budget for 2001/2002 of £150,000.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee approves the following budget as the Council's contribution to the Environmental Programme for 2001/2002.

1 Allocate £100,000 towards a range of projects at Nethergate/High Street.

2 Allocate £50,000 towards the City Centre Signage Project.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The total contribution required to be made by Dundee City Council in 2001/2002 in order to carry out the proposed programme is £150,000 and allowances for this sum are included in the 2001/2002 Capital Estimates.

- 3.2 A contribution of £100,000 is to be made by Lend Lease towards the Nethergate/High Street projects.

- 3.3 Contributions of £67,000 and £180,000 are to be made by Scottish Enterprise Tayside towards the Nethergate/High Street projects and City Centre Signage respectively.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Environmental Programme will enhance the townscape of the City Centre and create a pleasant environment whilst enhancing the conservation area.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Environment Programme will result in the creation of an environment which is more family friendly and barrier free.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Dundee City Centre Initiative (CCI) 1997-2002 was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee in October 1997. The Strategy has four key aims, to make Dundee a major regional shopping centre, a centre for business and academia, a

vibrant cultural and visitor economy and a desirable residential location. The development of a high quality physical environment will assist in enabling the development of these aims. The CCI Environment Programme has been extended to 2005.

- 6.2 The Environment Programme identifies the Nethergate/High Street area, a recently widened pavement which is a major public transport departure point for the city centre, adjacent to Littlewoods, to be carried out this year. Originally it was planned to take forward Commercial Street north, following Castlehill. However, Lend Lease agreed to contribute funds to the Littlewoods area project, this year following completion of the Littlewoods façade works in June. This Environmental Improvement project will therefore further enhance the Overgate and complete the environmental transformation of the north side of Nethergate from High Street westwards to Marketgait. New bus shelters will be installed in 2002/2003 following the renegotiation of the contract for bus shelters in the city.
- 6.3 When buses were removed from the High Street in 1996, a section of reclaimed setts, traffic humps and lowered kerbs was retained between Boots Corner and Thomas Cook. This area still resembles a road and continues to attract illegal traffic movements into and out of High Street. It is proposed that this area be relaid in smooth Caithness Stone setts, raised kerbs and street furniture, to give it a greater pedestrianised presence.
- 6.4 At Boots Corner it is proposed to break the continuous length of steps around the south side of the existing plinth into a series of shorter flights to better define and use this popular public space.
- 6.5 Members will be aware of the Ambassador Routes Signage Strategy. Part of this Strategy is the introduction of new pedestrian signage throughout the city centre. Within Scottish Enterprise Tayside approval for city centre signage monies has been taken forward from Scottish Enterprise Tayside's city centre environmental improvement budget. Therefore it is proposed that a contribution from the Departments Environment Programme Budget be made towards the Ambassador Routes City Centre Signage Scheme.
- 6.6 Due to a lack of funds the remaining two sections of south Nethergate footway improvement scheme between Union Street and Crichton Street will be delayed until next financial year. It was also felt that if work were to take place on both sides of Nethergate considerable disruption to public transport might take place.
- 6.7 To complete the series of projects within this area Members should note that a two metre high permanent bronze statue of Desperate Dan and smaller Minnie the Minx are to be installed this summer in High Street close to H Samuels. A planning application has been lodged and a series of unveiling events are to take place which are expected to receive national media interest.

7 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning, Scottish Enterprise Tayside and the City Centre Manager, have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Dundee City Centre Initiative Economic Development Strategy 1997-2002.
Report No 596/97 Policy and Resources Committee.
- 8.2 Report No 245/1998
- 8.3 Report No 73/1999
- 8.4 Report No 229/2000

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20 April 2001

KW/PMJ/KR DP9/1

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