

**REPORT TO:** **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**26 JANUARY 2004**

**REPORT ON:** **GRANT OFFER FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN**  
**2003/2004**

**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

**REPORT NO:** **76-2004**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek committee approval for the implementation of Public Transport Projects arising from extra funding made available by the Scottish Executive in 2003/2004.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee approve the implementation of Public Transport Projects as outlined within this committee report.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Dundee City Council has received a grant of £427,851 from the Scottish Executive under section 70 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 for cost incurred on Public Transport Projects during financial year 2003/2004.
- 3.2 All financial costs associated with works outlined within this report will be met from this grant.

**4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The public transport schemes promoted within this report are aimed at providing a travel alternative to the private car and as such will contribute to the protection of Dundee's environment.

**5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The schemes promoted within this report are aimed at improving public transport for the benefit of all Dundee's citizens, whether or not they have access to a car or are able bodied or have a disability, thus ensuring Dundee's transport network caters for all.

**6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 The Scottish Executive announced on 20 November 2003 that they would provide extra funding for public transport projects in Dundee. Subsequently, an official offer of grant was made on 10 December 2003 to Dundee City Council to be used for any public transport project that aligns with the Council's Local Transport Strategy.
- 6.2 The grant provided is £427,851 and must be claimed for costs incurred within financial year 2003/2004. Given this short time period, the Scottish Executive suggests that the following measures may be appropriate for this grant allocation:

- measures to improve the bus environment, to reduce crime on buses and to enhance driver and passenger safety, including on and off bus CCTV;
  - new or improved bus shelters and stops and raised kerbs to ease boarding;
  - bus priority measures including bus priority lanes, bus gates and bus priority at traffic lights and junctions;
  - work in connection with bus stations, passenger interchanges and park and ride facilities; and
  - cycling and walking related projects, such as the provision of dedicated cycle lanes, upgraded road crossings, path networks and safer routes to school scheme.
- 6.3 Dundee City Council has two major public transport projects ongoing at present, "Bringing Confidence into Public Transport" (BCPT) and "Smartbus". Both these projects align with the local transport strategy and aim to develop high quality on-street facilities together with a step-change in information available. In partnership with the bus operators these projects will provide Dundee with a high quality, comprehensive and cohesive service that is at the forefront to public transport provision in the UK.
- 6.4 To ensure these projects maintain a high quality standard throughout the city, it is intended that the additional grant finance is targeted at complementary measures that will improve the bus environment and enhance passenger safety and comfort.
- 6.5 One in ten of all passenger transport journeys in Dundee originate from, or are destined for, Ninewells Hospital. Through the BCPT project, roadworks have taken place that significantly improve the vehicle movements at the interchange facility. However, the financial budget available through BCPT has resulted in a limited design for the associated building works. It is intended to provide significant funds from this extra grant, which together with £100,000 provided by the NHS Trust will significantly improve the quality of the building works and passenger waiting environment by providing an indoor environment from the moment passengers step off the bus.
- 6.6 Electronic departure boards are to be installed at the Whitehall Street/High Street bus hub area and at Ninewells Hospital foyer through the BCPT project. It is intended to use some of the extra grant finance to provide another electronic departure board at the Seagate Bus Station.
- 6.7 Through the Smartbus project, on-board equipment is being installed on buses that will allow priority to be given to them at traffic signal junctions. It is intended to use some of the extra grant finance to improve the efficiency of the bus priority system, and TRI on buses.
- 6.8 Albert Square is the subject of an environmental improvement scheme that will significantly improve the area. It was originally intended that the bus shelters in Albert Square would be improved as part of the Smartbus project. However, the extra grant finance provides the opportunity to upgrade the bus shelter provision and

it is intended to use this extra grant finance to provide passenger waiting facilities to the same Nicoll Russell Studio design as used at Whitehall Street.

6.9 In addition to complementary measures to the BCPT and Smartbus public transport projects, one of the Scottish Executive suggestions for use of the grant is to upgrade road crossings. It is intended to use part of the extra grant finance to upgrade facilities at a number of Puffin crossings in the city.

6.10 Annex A gives a detailed breakdown of the finance allocated to the above proposals.

## **7 CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) and the Chief Constable have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.

Mike Galloway  
Director of Planning & Transportation

Iain Sherriff  
Head of Transportation

IFS/NG/KM

16 January 2004

Dundee City Council  
Tayside House  
Dundee

**ANNEX A****SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE GRANT OFFER FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS****FINANCIAL ALLOCATION**

- 1 Measures to improve the bus environment and to enhance passenger safety and comfort in Dundee.

Ninewells Building Works	£255,000
Departure Board at Seagate Bus Station	£20,000
Equipment for bus priority and real time information	£25,000
Albert Square Bus Shelters to NRS BCPT Design	<u>£108,000</u>
Sub-total	£408,000

- 2 Upgrading road crossing facilities.

Puffin Crossing Pedestrian Detection Equipment	<u>£19,851</u>
Sub-total	£19,851

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£427,851</u></b>
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