REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

26 JANUARY 2004

REPORT ON: CITY CENTRE FAÇADE ENHANCEMENT GRANT SCHEME

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 8-2004

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise Committee as to the progress being made to date on implementing the Façade Enhancement Grant Scheme in the City Centre.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee agree to the following grants:

Address	Grant	%
53 Reform Street	£14,965	75%
34 Seagate	£6,000	75%
21-25 Union Street	£66,000	66%

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The total cost of awarding these grants is £86,965. The proposed grants will be met from the Planning and Transportation Departments 2003/2004 Capital Budget allocated for the Façade Enhancement Grants Scheme.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 By the successful renovation of important City Centre buildings, the distinctive architectural character of the city centre will be retained and will assist in addressing the following Key Theme of Dundee 21:

"Places, spaces and objects combine meaning and beauty with utility".

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 During the enhancement of the properties all accesses constructed will enable disabled persons to have access to the properties wherever possible.

6 BACKGROUND

6.1 <u>53 Reform Street</u>

The currently vacant property is to be converted into an employment agency office. The proposal will reinstate the neo-classical architectural detailing. Once completed this will only leave three small shop units in Reform Street to be improved.

6.2 34 Seagate

This shop unit is the last of three to be improved. Its proposed design will match its adjoining neighbours. It currently operates as a licensed bookmakers.

6.3 <u>21-25 Union Street</u>

Committee will recall that at their meeting of 30 March 1998 they agreed to serve a listed building repairs notice on the owners of this property. This property is a Category "B" listed building situated within an outstanding conservation area, as determined by the Historic Buildings Council for Sotland. Failure to act on the repairs notice led the Council to serve a Compulsory Purchase Order on the owners on the 13 March 2001. The Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed by the Scottish Ministers on the 27 May 2002.

A willing restorative third party, SL Developments Ltd, in association with the Hillcrest Housing Association have commenced works on this project. The proposal is to form six flats and one shop at this location. The front elevation of the building will be retained and it is this element of the project for which the grant is being recommended for. The remainder of the works are new build. The cost of the project is in excess of £1 million. The project is to receive financial assistance from Communities Scotland and Scottish Enterprise Tayside.

The retention of the front façade is seen as a means of maintaining the architectural integrity of this section of Union Street.

7 CONSULTATIONS

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

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Item 3 of Minutes of Planning Committee (CDDC) – City Centre Façade Enhancement Grant Scheme June 1994.

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IGSM/JMcG/KM/CON/11/1

8 January 2004

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