

**ANGUS COUNCIL****PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE  
ROADS COMMITTEE****11 JUNE 1998  
11 JUNE 1998****SUBJECT: ARBROATH HIGH STREET  
PHASE I STREETScape DESIGNS****JOINT REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT AND DIRECTOR OF  
ROADS**

**Abstract: This report advises the Committee on the outcome of the public consultations undertaken in respect of the Streetscape Designs for Arbroath High Street. It details the financial implications to Angus Council of proceeding with a first phase of the works and sets out the proposed programme of implementation.**

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) agrees to proceed with Phase I of the streetscape designs for Arbroath High Street at an estimated cost of £255,000 exclusive of fees;
- (b) agrees to make a contribution of up to £135,000 towards the cost of the works, this expenditure to be met from existing capital budgets for 1998/99;
- (c) authorises the Roads Department Consultancy Team to seek competitive tenders for Phase I over the summer with a view to submitting the tender report to the Roads Committee meeting on 28 August 1998; and
- (d) notes the projected cost of the Phase II works of around £500,000 (exclusive of fees) and awaits a further report on the programming and funding of these works in due course.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Concept Streetscape Designs for Arbroath High Street were approved in principle earlier this year and that it was agreed that public consultation be undertaken following further discussions with the local members.
- 2.2 Those discussions duly took place and public consultation subsequently undertaken.

**3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 A meeting was held in May with representatives of the Arbroath Community Council, the Retailers and Business Association and the Chamber of Commerce (31 attended). The proposed improvements in the High Street were well received and there was clear enthusiasm for the works proceeding as soon as possible.

- 3.2 The designs will also be presented to the Arbroath Area Forum on Tuesday, 9 June 1998, and the outcome reported at the Committee meeting.

#### **4 PROGRAMMING**

- 4.1 Even assuming that the public response at the Area Forum is supportive of the proposed improvements, it is felt that further consultation with the Retailers in Kirk Square and the pedestrian precinct should be undertaken. However, both Scottish Enterprise Tayside and the Council have allocations within their respective capital programmes for works in Arbroath High Street during the current financial year (see Financial Implications). It is therefore crucial that elements of the works be progressed without delay if these allocations are to be fully taken up.
- 4.2 In view of the above, it is proposed that the improvements be implemented in two distinct phases. The first phase would be undertaken during the current financial year and would comprise the works to those sections of the High Street which will cause the least disturbance and which have received general support; namely the Fit 'O' the Toon, Webster Theatre Section, Middle High Street and Upper High Street.
- 4.3 Phase II of the project would comprise the works to Kirk Square and the full length of the pedestrian precinct and would be programmed to commence in the autumn of 1999, possibly phased over two financial years. This would allow more than adequate time to consult in detail with the High Street Retailers.
- 4.4 It is estimated that Phase I will have a contract period of 25 weeks which, allowing for a complete break in the works during the whole of December to avoid disruption before Christmas, means that a contract will have to be let by early September. Subject to approval, it is therefore proposed that competitive tenders for Phase I be sought over the summer months with a view to the tender report being submitted to the Roads Committee on 28 August 1998. This would allow the above timescale to be met. The detailed designs would be prepared jointly by Ironside Farrar and the Roads Department Consultancy Team with the latter undertaking the contract administration and site supervision.

#### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The estimated cost of the Phase I works as outlined above is £255,000 exclusive of fees. There is currently an allocation of £135,000 within the Council's General Services Capital Programme (£50,000 in Planning and £85,000 in Roads) for 1998/99 for works in Arbroath High Street. Scottish Enterprise Tayside has confirmed that it is able to fund the balance (£120,000) plus the full cost of the fees.
- 5.2 It should be noted that, in addition to the above, Scottish Enterprise Tayside has also confirmed £25,000 for selective building facade improvements, particularly in the middle section of the High Street and £28,000 for improve signage/public art.
- 5.3 Based on the concept designs approved previously, it is estimated that the Phase II works will cost around £500,000 plus fees. Again, Scottish Enterprise Tayside has

confirmed that it can meet £350,000 of this cost plus the fees subject to Angus Council meeting the balance of around £150,000. This expenditure could be phased over two financial years i.e. 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 if necessary. It is intended that a further report on the programming and funding of the Phase II works be submitted for consideration following the detailed consultations with the Retailers.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law & Administration and Director of Recreation Services have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

## **7 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 There would appear to be local support for the proposed improvements to the High Street and a general desire for the works to proceed. It is important, however, that those directly affected by the works i.e. the High Street Retailers are fully consulted and support the proposals. The programme of implementation set out in this report will allow both of these objectives to be met.

## **NOTE**

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.

AA/RM/KW  
3 June 1998

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Director of Planning and Transport

