

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

8 SEPTEMBER 1998

SUBJECT: MONTROSE TOWN CENTRE, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

JOINT REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORT AND
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

Abstract: This report seeks Committee approval for the proposed environmental improvements to Montrose Town Centre and authority to proceed to competitive tender.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) approves the proposed environmental improvements to Montrose Town Centre as outlined previously in Report No. 437/98;
- (b) agrees the funding proposals as detailed in section 4.3 of the report;
- (c) authorises the Director of Roads to seek competitive tenders for the project with a view to submitting the tender report to the Roads Committee meeting on 26 November 1998; and
- (d) notes that the revised expenditure implications will need to be taken account of in the preparation of the Financial Plan for 1999/2000 and beyond.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Committee will no doubt recall that the proposed improvements to the Town Centre were approved in principle in April 1998 and that authority to prepare more detailed designs and budget costs was granted in June 1998.

3 PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- 3.1 The Director of Roads in conjunction with the Director of Property Services has progressed the detailed designs for the Town Centre. This has not resulted in any significant change from the concept designs approved in principle in April 1998 (Report No. 437/98 refers).
- 3.2 As has been highlighted in previous reports, it would be very difficult to implement this project in phases over several financial years without causing significant disruption. In view of this and in order to meet the financial commitments for the current financial year (see Financial Implications), it is proposed that the project be programmed to commence in mid-January 1999. This would allow adequate time for competitive tenders to be sought and the tender report submitted to the Roads

Committee in November 1998. It would be possible for the project to be completed by December 1999 (felt to be desirable to facilitate any Millennium celebration) but would mean that work would have to continue over the summer months.

- 3.3 The contract administration (including financial monitoring) and site supervision will be undertaken by the Director of Roads' representative who will act as Project Manager for this project. The Director of Property Services has had input to the detailed design and will continue to advise on choice of materials, street furniture etc.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Based on the detailed designs, it is estimated that the proposed improvement works will cost approximately £760,000 (inclusive of fees). This is a slight increase in the estimated cost reported previously (£750,000) which was based on concept designs. This cost does not allow for the resurfacing of the existing carriageway between the North Port and Hume Street but this will be considered within the planned maintenance programme.

- 4.2 Scottish Enterprise Tayside has confirmed that the maximum contribution which it is able to make to the project is £100,000 spread equally over this and next financial year. A total of £145,000 is contained within the Planning and Roads Capital Programmes for the current financial year (£70,000 in Planning and £75,000 in Roads). This leaves a funding provision of £515,000 to be put in place.

- 4.3 Discussions have taken place between SET, the funding Departments and the Director of Finance and the following overall funding package has been identified.

	1998/99	1999/00	2001/01	TOTAL £'000
Planning & Transport	70	95		165
Roads	75	405	15	495
SET	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>		<u>100</u>
	<u>195</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>760</u>

- 4.4 The 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 expenditure proposals will need to be taken account of in the preparation of the Financial Plan for 1999/200 and beyond.

5 CONSULTATION

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

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 There is little doubt that action is needing to be taken to improve the quality of Montrose Town Centre and to reduce the amount of through traffic, objectives previously accepted by the Council. The proposed improvement works should meet these aims in a way which has responded to and taken account of public opinion but can only be achieved at a significant cost to the Council.

NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) was relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.

Report No. 437/98, by Director of Planning & Transport and Director of Roads on Montrose Town Centre, Revised Streetscape Designs.

AA/RM/KW/IAL
1 September 1998

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport

