

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**2 JUNE 2009**

**TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION FUND**

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**ABSTRACT**

This report considers options for bids by Angus Council for the Town Centre regeneration fund.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to

- (i) submission of a bid of up to £250,000 for the improvement of Monifieth town Centre;
- (ii) authorise the Director of Infrastructure Services to progress other options for future consideration by appropriate Committees;
- (iii) note that advice is available to properly constituted groups from the Council's Economic Development Division.

**2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Scottish Government issued information and guidance together with application forms and application guidance for the Town Centre Regeneration Fund on 30 April 2009. The information and guidance is summarised in the bullet points below:-

- There is £60 million of funding available nationally in 2009/10.
- The fund is capital only and so cannot support non-investment activity (also limits what the Council can support).
- Only proposals within Development Plan (Local Plan) defined Town Centres will be eligible (see attached plans).
- Organisations applying for the fund must be established with legal status
  - Be located or operating/trading in a recognised town centre and,
  - have appropriate management and governance arrangements.
- The grant will not cover any costs incurred before a formal offer of grant is issued and accepted. The grant will also not cover any "consultancy" costs in relation to projects and, therefore, the costs of the council's professional engineering, etc. services fees will require to be separately addressed.
- If successful all funding must be claimed by March 2010.

2.2 In relation to the final bullet point regarding deadlines the guidance states "you must claim all funding by March 2010", the appropriate website provides additional information under FAQ's that confirms, "the funding does therefore require to be spent in financial year 2009/10 and we will be prioritising those bids which are able to deliver and claim their funding in 2009/10". Given the nature of the spend (capital over £100,000 but under £3M) the processes involved in securing necessary consents (e.g. Planning and in following public sector procurement procedures) it is

highlighted that the submission timeframe is a major constraint in terms of the projects that can be developed by the council and delivered within the Funds' constraints.

### **3 DETAILS**

3.1 A cross authority officer group has reviewed the guidance and current corporate projects and priorities to identify projects which can meet the deadlines and be delivered in the timescales without diverting resources from other priority services or projects that the council has already agreed to take forward.

3.2 Three potential projects/areas of work have been identified where it is considered that the available officer time can be targeted with greatest likelihood of successful bids:-

(1) **Monifieth Town Centre**

Consultation has recently been completed on options for a range of improvements in the town centre. It is unlikely that all of the priorities can be funded from the currently available budget. Extending the scale and nature of the works would be possible if grant funding was available. A bid for £250,000 would permit a much wider range of projects to be progressed.

(2) **Brechin Town Centre**

It is recognised that work is needed to regenerate the centre of Brechin, and whilst the THI project will help, further work is needed to develop vacant properties and to acquire properties to facilitate future development. Grant funding for the acquisition of property may be available.

(3) **Town Centre CCTV Improvements**

Work to improve town centre CCTV is currently being considered. Money from the town centre regeneration fund may be available to extend the proposals.

### **Timescales**

3.3 Bids will be considered in two tranches, the first round of bids need to be submitted by 5 June 2009 through which £40 million of the £60 million funding available will be allocated. A second round of bidding requires submissions by 21 August 2009 through which the £20 million balance will be allocated. It will not be possible to develop the bids for CCTV and Brechin Town Centre by 5 June but this should be possible for 21 August. As consultation has already taken place on Monifieth it should be possible to submit a bid by 5 June.

### **Wider Interest**

3.4 Groups outwith the Council may wish to bid for funds. Whilst Council resources are not available to support or develop these bids, officers from the Economic Development Division have contacted a range of representative groups and will be able to provide some advice with regard to the bidding process.

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations in this report. Some officer time will be required to make the bid submissions but this is not expected to be significant and will be met from existing budget resources.
- 4.2 In the event that the bids noted in section 3 above are successful this may necessitate the council requiring to identify match funding from its own resources in support of the projects. This will be in order to ensure alignment with the Town Centre Regeneration Fund's bid assessment criteria to increase the likelihood of a successful outcome. Further, as internal professional services costs will not be eligible for grant it may be necessary for funding to be identified to meet these costs should the projects be agreed for taking forward.
- 4.3 In terms of the Monifieth Town Centre bid members will be aware that match funding is already available because of the Council's existing commitment to this project. Future reports on the further bids to be submitted and the outcome of all of the Council's bids and the potential consequences for the Council's finances will be provided to appropriate Committees before commitment of Council resources is made on any of these potential projects. It is however expected that the consequences (including potential match funding) for all of the bids being taken forward will require to be met within the existing budget resources available.
- 4.4 In selecting suitable projects for development, officers have sought to identify those which will not result in a significant ongoing impact onto the council's revenue budget. In developing these bids further for submission, it will be ensured that any ongoing revenue costs are minimised and can be contained within existing budget provisions.

## **5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no human rights implications arising from the proposals in this report.

## **6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An [equalities impact assessment](#) is not required.

## **7 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
- We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration were consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **9 CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 A bid for funding for improving Monifieth Town Centre appears to meet the criteria.
- 9.2 Further work is needed to develop wider options in Brechin on CCTV and other town centres.

ERIC S LOWSON  
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

### **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.

ESL/JSG  
20 May 2009  
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