

# ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE: *Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure*

DATE: *20<sup>th</sup> April 2010*

DIRECTOR: *Gordon McIntosh*

TITLE OF REPORT: Progress Report for 'The Green Townscape Heritage Initiative, Public Realm Streetscape Works'

REPORT NUMBER: EPI-10-100

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise the Committee on the progress of works at The Green Townscape Heritage Initiative, Public Realm Streetscape works, as verbally requested by the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of the report.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The public realm improvement aspect of The Green Townscape Heritage Initiative has approved funding of £1.065 million from the former Energising Aberdeen Fund, whilst partner funding of £825,000 has been received from Scottish Enterprise and £525,000 from The Green THI Common Fund.

3.2 This funding covers the design and implementation of the public realm improvements within phases A and B of the original Townscape Heritage Initiative Agreement.

## **4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT**

4.1 Within the Community Plan, City Centre redevelopment is identified as a strategic priority, and within the Single Outcome Agreement, two national outcome objectives identified are that 'We live in well-designed, sustainable places' and that 'We value our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations'.

- 4.2 'Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking', states in the Economic Development Section, that it will 'Implement master plans, working with partners, including those in the private sector', and that it will 'Continue to drive regeneration and take advantage of regeneration opportunities city wide, as they present themselves'. In the Environment Section, it states that it will 'Protect Aberdeen's unique granite heritage'.

## **5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None, existing staff resources are being utilised to undertake the required work. However, on carrying out the work associated with this project, other projects may be impacted upon due to the reallocation of time.

## **6. REPORT**

### *6.1 Introduction*

- 6.1.1 This report outlines the progress made by the contractor on The Green Streetscape works to date with particular reference to; Programme, Temporary Traffic Management and Communication.

### *6.2 Programme*

- 6.2.1 Although the initial progress was slower than anticipated, following extensive discussions between the contractor and ACC, progress has now reached an acceptable level and substantial completion should be achieved in July 2010. This is approximately six weeks later than originally planned as a result of the initial slow progress and the extreme winter conditions. Nonetheless, this still represents a rate of progress on this type of work that is as good, if not better, than any similar schemes constructed in recent decades.

- 6.2.2 A summary programme for the scheme is attached for the information of Committee members. Given the weather sensitive nature of some of the construction activities and the potential impact of utility issues there may be a need for some variation to the programme. However, it is expected that substantial completion of the overall works should nonetheless be achieved by the indicated mid July date.

### 6.3 *Temporary Traffic Management*

6.3.1 Temporary traffic management arrangements are routinely monitored by Council staff. As a result of this, and comment from the public and local businesses, various issues have been identified with the Contractor's handling of this matter. These have included:

- a. Inadequate signing,
- b. Some areas of the works not being adequately barriered off,
- c. Concerns over temporary footway surfaces.

It should also be noted however, that not all of the issues are attributable to the contractor and there have also been instances of third parties moving cones and other traffic management items and this is compounding the traffic management problems.

6.3.2 In a similar manner to programme issues, there have been extensive discussions between ACC and the contractor on this matter and improvement measures agreed. Some of these measures are already in place and others should be completed by the time of this Committee's meeting. Once in place, the effect of these measures will continue to be monitored and additional measures will be put in place as necessary.

### 6.4 *Communication*

6.4.1 The following means of communication are currently in place to ensure that all interested parties (internal and external) are kept up to date on the progress of the streetscape works:

- Weekly brief published on the Council website and distributed to businesses,
- Weekly internal meetings chaired by Gordon McIntosh and attended by relevant Council staff from various services including; roads, parking, environment, marketing and events,
- Weekly and monthly progress meetings held between the contractor and ACC engineering staff,
- Regular business meetings held at the Carmelite Hotel with representatives of the contractor, ACC and local businesses,
- Monthly meetings between the contractors and ACC chaired by Gordon McIntosh and the contractor's Chief Executive.

There have also been discussions with individual residents and businesses on matters specific to their particular interests.

## 7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None referred to.