

SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE: 30 APRIL 2010

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION FUND

CUMNOCK 'CREATING CIVIC SPACE' PROJECT

APPLICATION NOS: 9/0881/PP AND 09/0886/LB

PUBLIC REALM WORKS: CUMNOCK TOWN HALL, GLAISNOCK STREET

Report by Head of Planning and Economic Development

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the committee of the background to the above applications considered by Committee on the 26th February 2010 and to provide a response to its request for further information and the reasons for amending the proposals.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Scottish Government approved funding in August 2009 through the first round of the 'Town Centre Regeneration Fund' for the Cumnock 'Creating Civic Space' project in Glaisnock Street, Cumnock. Linked to the demolition of the former bingo hall and the new car park proposal on the site of the former Burgh Yard off Market Lane, this project aims to create a high quality civic space whilst improving the setting of the Town Hall and the Dumfries Arms Hotel. Applications for planning permission and listed building consent were approved at the meeting of the Southern Local Planning Committee on 26 February 2010 for the project.

2.2 The original bid to the Scottish Government TCRF fund was submitted in June 2009 with a first stage draft design for the civic space proposal. This draft design was submitted well before receipt of the first draft of the '4 Towns' Enquiry by Design report from the Princes Foundation for the Built Environment which also contains suggestions in sketch form for the improvement of public streets and places in Cumnock Town Centre. A report providing information on the outcome of the 3 TCRF submissions made by the Council and requesting approval of various actions to take each of the projects forward was submitted and approved by East Ayrshire Council's Cabinet on 19 August 2009.

2.3 The details of the 'Civic Space' proposal, on approval of the funding in August 2009 and the above Cabinet report, were developed by a design consultant who was appointed following a procurement exercise in accordance with the Council's procedures. Following a public consultation exercise undertaken by them, a detailed design was drawn up and the above applications submitted. The final design incorporates the main elements of the original draft

design submitted to the Scottish Government which has been amended to meet the budget available to the project. It should be noted that the approved public realm works will be implemented using high quality materials and will result in the creation of a civic space which enhances the setting of the Town Hall, a key listed building within the Conservation Area. The principal contractor for the project has now been appointed, Stewart Landscapes (Contracts) Ltd and the project will be completed in October 2010.

3. RECOMMENDATION

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

Alan Neish
Head of Planning and Economic Development

20 April 2010 (SJ/SA)
FV-AN

List of Background Papers

1. Report to Cabinet, 20 May, 2009, Delivering Community Regeneration.
2. Report to Cabinet, 19 August, 2009, Town Centre Regeneration Fund Bids – Project Development.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact Karl Doroszenko on 01563 576751.

Implementation Officer: Karl Doroszenko