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CITY STREETSCAPE CONSULTATION REACHES OUT

The Inverness community is being invited to let their fingers do the talking as a further dimension to the consultation on the Inverness City Centre Streetscape and Traffic Management Programme gets underway.

An innovative texting approach to getting public opinion will be tried for the first time in Inverness. TexTales is a web-based visual questionnaire which will be beamed onto a large screen, in a number of locations throughout the city, inviting viewers to text in their reactions to the questions. Recent text comments will show on the screen and be collated via the web.

Marie Mackintosh, City Partnership Officer, who is co-ordinating the streetscape consultation, said: "I am hoping the TexTales experiment will boost participation in the consultation exercise, reaching out to a wider audience and perhaps young people or those who would be less inclined to come in to the office. Ideally it will whet their appetite to visit the main exhibition to find out more. This is an exciting prospect for the city and we want to see what people think of the plans and where their priorities lie."

The TexTales screen will be in the window of one of the new units on Union Street (formerly Arnotts), courtesy of Tulloch Construction, on Wednesday 27th – Thursday 28th April, in the Eastgate 1 Centre on Friday 29th April and at the Aquadome, Inverness Leisure on Saturday 30th April.

The plans for the streetscape and traffic management programme are now on display in an exhibition at the City Partnership Office at 20 Bank Street, Inverness. The exhibition will be open between 9 am - 5 pm Monday – Friday until 5pm on Tuesday 10 May. It will also be open on Saturdays 30 April and 7 May between 10 am - 4 pm. Council and City Partnership Officers will be on hand for informal discussion and there will be an opportunity to make comments and give feedback on the proposals.

The £6m streetscape masterplan includes a new traffic management system and environmental improvements to ease congestion within the Old Town, and adjacent areas. £4m has already been identified to roll out the first phases of the programme beginning later this year until early 2007. The remaining £2m is to be raised to complete the works in 2008.

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