

Issue Date: Thursday 21 April 2005

## **MAJOR INVERNESS CITY STREETScape AND TRAFFIC SCHEMES TO BE UNVEILED**

Plans for one of the largest publicly-funded programmes affecting Inverness city centre are to be unveiled for consultation on Tuesday 26 April, at the City Partnership Office, 20 Bank Street. An exhibition is being mounted jointly by The Highland Council and Inverness City Partnership to outline the Inverness City Centre Streetscape & Traffic Management Programme – a £6m scheme that includes a new traffic management system to ease congestion within the Old Town, and environmental improvements stretching from Church Street, Queensgate and Union Street across Bridge Street to Castle Wynd, Stephens's Brae and other streets and closes adjacent to the High Street.

Members of the public, and the local business community, are invited to visit the exhibition which comprises an audio visual presentation and a series of information panels. It will run daily from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday starting 1pm on Tuesday through to 5pm Tuesday 10 May and from 10 am to 4pm on Saturdays 30 April and 8 May. 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.

Councillor Alison Magee, Convener of The Highland Council and Chairman of Inverness City Partnership said: "This initiative represents one of the key themes within the Inverness City Vision and is strategically important for the economic growth of the city and its hinterland. We have already identified investment of £4m which will enable work to start later this year and continue over the next 2 – 3 years, by which time we expect to secure the remaining finance to conclude the whole package."

Provost Bill Smith, Chairman of the City of Inverness and Area Committee of The Highland Council, added: "This consultation is an ideal opportunity for citizens and the business community to express their opinions on the traffic management scheme with the aim of improving the quality of the city centre environment. Our city centre serves local residents and those from the rest of the Highlands & Islands as well as visitors and the business community. For Inverness to remain competitive among other cities we need raise our game and provide a much better city centre experience. This is a welcome start to the whole process."











-Ends-

### **Note to Newsdesks:**

Press are invited to a preview of the exhibition at 11.00 am, Tuesday 26 April in the City Partnership Office, 20 Bank Street. Contact for further information – Marie Mackintosh, City Partnership Officer Tel: 723539 or email [marie.mackintosh@highland.gov.uk](mailto:marie.mackintosh@highland.gov.uk)

### **Background**

Inverness, the millennium city, formed the City Partnership in 2001 to promote continued growth and success. The City Vision is the core of its strategic agenda. Members of the Partnership are:

-  The Highland Council
-  Highlands & Islands Enterprise
-  Inverness & Nairn Enterprise
-  Inverness Chamber of Commerce
-  Inverness City Centre Management
-  Inverness College UHI
-  Inverness City Heritage Trust
-  University of the Highlands & Islands - Millennium Institute
-  Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations
-  Visit Scotland

The £4m already identified for the first phases of the Streetscape and Traffic Management Programme is from the following sources: Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund; Inverness City Vision funds and Inverness Common Good Fund.