

7 April 2009

Town Centre Regeneration Fund

Further details on how Scotland's high streets will benefit from the £60 million Town Centre Regeneration Fund were released at the end of last week by the Scottish Government and COSLA.

Jim Tolson MSP for Dunfermline West commented "Dunfermline town centre needs investment and we should be applying for funding to help implement planned improvements. Making funds available to this area would not only improve the town centre but would also enable the area to promote and develop further its tourism potential. This would have long term gains for Dunfermline as well as to Scotland as a whole.

Dunfermline is the ancient capital of Scotland, boasts one of Scotland's finest Abbeys, the burial place of seven kings including Robert the Bruce, birth place of Andrew Carnegie and the first Carnegie library as well as the original Carnegie Hall. We need investment into all of these facilities along with improvements to the centre of the town.

I wrote to Alex Neil, the Minister for Communities and Sport when the fund was announced in the budget statement suggesting that criteria used for selection should include projects that will enable and improve existing facilities for tourism. Various organisations in the area including Fife Council, BIDs, and Dunfermline Delivers, Chambers of Commerce etc should be looking at the application packs once they've been finalised and co-ordinating a response for Dunfermline – we can't win unless we enter!

I shall be writing to these organisations seeking their co-operation with a joint application on behalf of Dunfermline."

Ends

Notes to Editor

1. A wide range of bodies including local authorities, Community Planning Partnerships, Business Improvement Districts, Town Centre Managers, local Chambers of Commerce, businesses and third sector groups will be eligible to apply.
2. Bids that satisfy eligibility criteria will be assessed on the basis of the economic, social and environmental benefit they deliver, the time required to deliver and the degree to which they support strategic local plans.
3. Application packs and final detail on the assessment of applications to the fund are currently being finalised.