

Public Consultation Tell us what you want...

The City Square project is proposed by Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Future (ACSEF). ACSEF brings together the public and private sectors to realise the ambition for the future of the Region and to shape delivery of economic development in Aberdeen City and Shire.

ACSEF's vision is to improve Aberdeen City Centre to help generate jobs and revenue for the region as the benefits we receive from the oil industry begin to dwindle. Aberdeen needs to be the market leader in renewable energy and carbon capture and realise our ambition of becoming a World Energy City. To do this ACSEF believes the city needs a centre that will reflect that aspiration and attract future talent and businesses. This is about jobs for today's secondary pupils and undergraduates – our children and grandchildren.

OUR INSPIRATION

We have looked at cities around the world which have recently invested in major urban projects. Here are a few examples:

Federation Square, Melbourne, Australia

- Victoria's most popular visitor attraction.
- Built over a railway line
- Contains a museum, two public spaces – one open and one covered.
- Initially the scheme was controversial but that has now dramatically changed - in a recent survey 90% of people now support it.



Millennium Park, Chicago, USA

- 24 acre park
- Transformed dilapidated parking lot and rail yard
- Includes venues for performance, art, sculpture, architecture
- Over 500 cultural events a year
- Cost \$490 million, \$270 million from private sector
- Increased tourism revenues by \$2.6 billion



Discovery Green, Houston, USA

- 22 acre development
- The brainchild of Houston's Mayor
- Run by a public private partnership trust
- Committed to sustainable design and operation.
- Hosts 400 events annually
- Includes children's playground, an amphitheatre, public sculptures and artworks, interactive water features and spacious green lawns.



Kungstradgarden, Stockholm, Sweden

- Stockholm's 'Living room'
- 9 acres of public space at the heart of the City Centre
- Wide range of seasonal uses including covered stage that hosts more than 150 events per year
- 600 of exhibitions that attracted more than 3 million visitors in 2007
- Christmas market and ice skating in the winter
- Warm-weather activities such as chess, checkers, and ping pong



This public consultation aims to find out if you would like to go ahead with the proposal to redevelop Union Terrace Gardens and the Denburn Valley to create a new civic space and gardens.

The proposal would:

- Create at least 5 acres of city square and gardens
- Allow walk on, walk off street level access from all 4 sides
- Improve accessibility to green space
- Create at least 2.5 acres of all weather covered space beneath the square and gardens at concourse level
- Incorporate key aspects of the heritage within the current gardens, including the arches, viaduct and Union Street Bridge at concourse level
- Cover the road and railway
- Provide easy access to rail and bus

The project would cost between £120 and £140 million. Sir Ian Wood has offered £50 million towards the cost of the City Square project.

We are now consulting with the people of the north east to seek your view on what should be incorporated into the scheme and determine your support for this major project. The next stage would be to hold an international competition to find the best architect to design Aberdeen's new civic space. The public would be consulted again before a formal planning application is submitted.



SOME FACTS

- The scale of this development is important and must be proportionate for the city centre. The City Square Project will create 5 acres of new civic space, Red Square in Moscow is 18 acres and Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh is 22 acres.
- The current ACSEF proposal is that at least 2.5 acres of the new space will be for gardens – the same area as the existing gardens. However, the consultation is designed to find out what the public want in this space – if people want more gardens, that is what will be included in the final design brief.
- This is not a commercial development unless people want it. The City Square will be a civic asset.
- The City Square will have trees selected to fit the final design selected to make sure they can successfully grow in the space available.
- Aberdeen City Council's annual revenue budget will not fund this project.
- Space will be available for a contemporary arts centre of iconic design.

Public Consultation

Tell us what you want...

We need you to tell us if you want a major transformational development in the heart of Aberdeen. Please tell us what you want in it and what inspires you in other cities. This will form the basis of a design brief if the project gains the support to move to the next stage.



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