

## **“Vibrant and Viable City Centers”**

### **Project Brief**

The National Policy Framework 2 (Scottish Executive 2009) for Scotland highlights the need for expansion of opportunities for commerce and business by promoting good connectivity, environmental quality and promoting sustainable patterns of travel and land use. In policy making, it is widely accepted that cities are key economic drivers of the nation.

Of particular interest within this is the inquiry of how city centers can contribute to and promote the competitiveness of a city by attracting inward investment. Despite proliferation of out-of-town centers, city centers still play an important role in making cities an attractive place to live, work and enjoy.

The purpose of this three month exercise was to assess the vitality of Dundee City Centre and to outline policies and proposals that could be adopted for the city centre area based on different future scenarios, for instance: (1) the proposed V & A (Victoria and Albert) Museum in Dundee; (2) further development of Dundee as a knowledge-based economy; (3) demolition of Tayside House, currently housing the Dundee City Council offices.

The output in the form of reports and posters identifies a range of opportunities and issues for Dundee City centre and proposes a suite of policies around themes of retailing, housing, transport, business and leisure aimed at strengthening the role of Dundee city centre as a place to live, work and enjoy within the local and regional context.

### **Progress to Date:**

Third year students in Town and Regional Planning at the University of Dundee have undertaken this exercise, participated in a brainstorming session with the City centre community and submitted reports and posters. Four of these have been selected for dissemination and feedback to the wider public particularly at the City Centre Action Group meeting. The students are:

David Stevenson; David Rennie; Lewis Young; Mohammed Hussain

The presentation took place at Committee Room 2, Caird Hall on 17 February 2010.