

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 16th DECEMBER 2009

PROPOSED WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS VARIOUS STRUCTURES THROUGHOUT EAST AYRSHIRE

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Cabinet to revoke the existing weight limits on various structures throughout East Ayrshire and introduce new weight limits to allow the road signing to be brought up to current standards.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In recent years, changes have been made to the regulations on the permitted weight limits which can be signed. The permitted weight limits that can now be signed are 3T, 7.5T, 10T, 13T, 18T, 26T or 33T maximum gross weight (MGW). The ongoing bridge assessment programme has also identified changes to a number of the existing weight limits.
- 2.2 A review has been carried out on the existing weight restrictions, some of which have been in place for many years.
- 2.3 Two of the structures are bridges which cross the boundary between East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire and are the joint responsibility of both Councils. South Ayrshire Council has agreed to the promotion of a new Traffic Regulation Order by East Ayrshire Council in respect of the weight limits on these bridges.
- 2.4 It is proposed to revoke all of the existing Orders for weight restrictions on bridges and structures throughout East Ayrshire and promote a new Traffic Regulation Order to introduce the required weight restrictions as detailed in Appendix 1.

3 PROCEDURES

- 3.1 The draft Order has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 1999.
- 3.2 **Consultation** – the organisations, representative groups and individuals consulted during the preparation of the Order are detailed in Appendix 2. These consultations were undertaken by letter on 26th May 2009.
- 3.3 The Chief Constable has no objections to the making of the proposed Order.
- 3.4 No objections or adverse comments were received from any of the consultees.

3.5 Publication of Proposals – the draft Order was published in the Cumnock Chronicle on 27 May 2009 and the Kilmarnock Standard and Ayrshire Post on 29 May 2009. The closing date for public objections or comments was 19th June 2009. Full details of the proposals with a plan and Statement of Reasons were available for inspection at:-

Council Headquarters - London Road, Kilmarnock
Roads & Transportation Division Offices - Holmquarry Road, Kilmarnock
Council Offices – Rigg Road, Lugar
Local Office – 28 Well Road, Auchinleck
Local Office – 1 Townhead, Catrine
Local Office – 33 Main Street, Dalmellington
Local Office – Mill O’Shield Road, Drongan
Local Office – Cross Street, Galston
Dalrymple Library – Barbieston Road, Dalrymple

3.6 Formal Objection – one objection was received in respect of the draft order.

3.6.1 One objection was received in respect of that part of the draft Order which proposed a lowering of the weight limit on the Skeldon Bridge, Glastron Road, near Dalrymple, from 10 tonnes to 7.5 tonnes maximum gross weight.

3.6.2 The objection was made on the grounds that the proposed reduction in the weight limit would be detrimental to the future operation of the objector’s farm and also his neighbours’ farms.

3.6.3 If the objection is maintained then a hearing before a Reporter has to be held following which the Reporter will make a recommendation. The Council would then make a decision on the objection, taking cognisance of the recommendation. The decision would require to be sent to the Scottish Government for ratification. In the meantime the whole order pertaining to all the bridges would be held up.

3.7 Officers have explored proposals that would enable the objection to be withdrawn

3.8 Response to the points raised by the Objector

3.8.1 Skeldon Bridge is on the boundary of East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council. The bridge is in the approved East Ayrshire Council bridge replacement programme with work due to commence in 2013/14. The replacement works will be jointly funded by both South Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Council

3.8.2 The bridge failed its bridge assessment some years ago; it is in a very poor condition; and it provides essential access to local farms. Officials at South Ayrshire Council have indicated that they would intend to seek funding for the renewal of the bridge in 2011/12. To enable East Ayrshire Council to partner South Ayrshire Council it is proposed to bring forward the replacement of the structure to 2011/12 in the Council’s programme.

3.8.3 Because of the proposal to bring forward the date for the replacement of the bridge, it is proposed to withdraw the 7.5 tonnes MGW weight limit from the draft Order and allow the present 10 tonnes limit to remain. The inspections of the Skeldon Bridge will

be increased from once every two months to every two weeks. These inspections would be carried out alternately by East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council. Should any serious deterioration be identified further action will be taken to protect the public from any danger.

- 3.8.4** The proposals to bring forward the replacement of the structure, remove the 7.5 tonne MGW weight limit from the draft Order and increase the monitoring regime on the existing bridge were put to the objector in writing and it was indicated that the objection would be withdrawn.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The cost of implementing the signing of the weight restrictions Order will be met from the approved Bridge & Culvert Strengthening Budget.
- 4.2** Provision will be made within the Bridge & Culvert Strengthening Programme for the East Ayrshire Council contribution to the replacement of the Skeldon Bridge to be brought forward to 2011/12 with design being carried out in 2010/11. This will delay the improvement to the following two structures by a year, U22 Burnfoot Bridge, Darvel and U741 Barbieston Bridge, Drongan. Monitoring of these structures will continue to be undertaken until improvement works are implemented. Should any serious deterioration be identified further action will be taken to safeguard the travelling public.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The promotion of this Order has been in accordance with the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended and the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999.

6 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Nil

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** The proposal complies with national signing requirements for weight limits.

8 COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** The introduction of the proposed weight restrictions is relevant to the Improving Community Safety and Delivering Community Regeneration Community Plan themes.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Failure to sign the structures in accordance with the structural assessments could result in an increased risk to public safety and impede essential access to local farms.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- (a) approves the proposal to bring forward the replacement of Skeldon Bridge in the Bridge & Culvert Strengthening Programme, from 2013/14 to 2011/12, with the design being carried out in 2010/11.
- (b) approves the proposal to amend the draft Order by removing the proposed weight limit for the Skeldon Bridge, Glastron Road, near Dalrymple, from the said Order.
- (c) approves the making of the Order for weight restrictions at the locations listed in Appendix 1, subject to the amendment in (b) above

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

10 December 2009
TSA/KC

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The East Ayrshire Council (Various Roads in East Ayrshire) (Weight Restrictions and Revocation) Order 20__

Copies of the above named draft Order is available from the Head of Roads & Transportation.

For further information on the contents of this report please contact Keith Orton on 01563 576310.

Implementing Officer: Tom Allan

Appendix 1

List of structures and proposed new weight limits included in original draft Order

Name of Structure/Road	Present Weight Limit	Proposed Weight Limit
Low Ashyard Bridge, route C127 Ashyard/Hoodston Bridge Road, near Hurlford	7.5 Tonnes	7.5 Tonnes MGW
Dean Road Ford, Kilmarnock	7.5 Tonnes	7.5 Tonnes MGW
Windyhill Bridge, route C104 Sornhill/Newmilns Road Newmilns	13 & 14 Tonnes	7.5 Tonnes MGW
Brackenhill Bridge, route C50 Knowe/Brackenhill Road, near Catrine	17 Tonnes	18 Tonnes MGW
Doon Bridge, route B741, near Dalmellington	13 Tonnes and 5 Tonnes Axle	13 Tonnes MGW
Loch Doon Dam, near Dalmellington	17 Tonnes	18 Tonnes MGW
Sorn Old Bridge, Smiddyshaw Rd, Sorn	1.5 Tonnes	3 Tonnes MGW
Stair Bridge, route B730, Stair	12 Tonnes	13 Tonnes MGW
Railway Bridge (No 161/153), Coal Road, Auchinleck	12 Tonnes	Remove Weight Limit (Limit no longer required)
Skeldon Bridge, Glastron Road, near Dalrymple	10 Tonnes	7.5 Tonnes MGW

Appendix 2

Consultation List

The following organisations, representative groups and individuals were consulted during the preparation of the draft Order –

Strathclyde Police	Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	Depute Chief Executive/Executive
Ayrshire & Arran NHS Trust	Director Corporate Support
Scottish Ambulance Service	Executive Director - Neighbourhood Services
Strathclyde Passenger Transport	Executive Director - Education & Social Services
Freight Transport Association Ltd	Operations Manager – Roads and Transportation
The Road Haulage Association Ltd	Head of Planning and Economic Development
Stagecoach Western Buses	
Milligan's Coach Travel Ltd	
Shuttlebuses	
Rowe's Coaches	Ward No2 - Cllr H. Coffey
Smith's Coaches	Ward No2 - Cllr W. Coffey
Marbill Coaches	Ward No2 - Cllr M McKay
Liddel's Coaches	Ward No4 - Cllr D. McIntyre
Keenan of Ayr Coach Travel	Ward No4 - Cllr G. Cree
MacEwan's Coach Service	Ward No4 - Cllr J. Campbell
	Ward No6 - Cllr A Brown
South Ayrshire Council	Ward No6 - Cllr S. Finlayson
	Ward No6 - Cllr S Young
Royal Mail	Ward No7 - Cllr D. Shaw
Scottish Power	Ward No7 - Cllr J Roberts
Scottish Gas Networks	Ward No7 - Cllr J. Kelly
British Telecom	Ward No7 - Cllr N. McGhee
Scottish Water	Ward No8 - Cllr B. Menzies
RAC	Ward No8 - Cllr B. Crawford
	Ward No8 - Cllr K Morrice
Auchinleck CC	Ward No8 - Cllr E. Ross
Catrine CC	Ward No9 - Cllr E. Dinwoodie
Cumnock CC	Ward No9 - Cllr D Filson
Dalmellington CC	
Dalrymple CC	
Drongan CC	Cllr B. McDill & Cllr J. Buchanan -
Galston CC	Spokespersons for Environment &
New Farm Loch CC	Regeneration
Newmilns & Greenholm CC	
Piersland & Bentinck CC	
Sorn CC	