

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 2 DECEMBER 2009**

### **A76 CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP GROUP**

#### **Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is for Cabinet to recommend to Council, Member representation at future A76 Corridor Partnership Group meetings.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** In 1996, the Scottish Office produced a route strategy for the A76 which included 6 major improvement schemes along the length of the route. Two of these schemes have been implemented, the Crossroads improvement in East Ayrshire and Glenairlie improvement in Dumfries and Galloway.
- 2.2** In 2001 the Scottish Executive awarded the contract for the management and maintenance of Trunk Roads in the South West of Scotland to Amey Highways. Previously a consortium of Local Authorities, including East Ayrshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council were contracted by the Scottish Executive to manage and maintain the All Purpose Trunk Road network in the South West of Scotland, including the A76.
- 2.3** A report was submitted to the Development Services Committee on 21 October 2003 at which it was agreed the Director of Development Services should liaise with the principal stakeholders with a view to establishing a joint strategy to secure the future upgrading of the A76 trunk road.
- 2.4** The A76 Corridor Partnership Group was formed in 2004 as it was considered, following the loss of the trunk road contracts, this would be a vehicle to allow East Ayrshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council to have more influence with Transport Scotland on matters relating to the A76 Trunk Road, particularly with regard to bringing forward schemes to improve road safety and to support economic regeneration in the towns and communities along the corridor.
- 2.5** As this is a non-constituted group which has met on an infrequent basis in the past, approval has not previously been sought for formal Member representation on the Group.

- 2.6 Prior to the change in administration in 2007, the Chair and Vic-Chair of the Development Services Committee attended meetings of the Group. Since 2007 there have been two meetings. At the meeting on 2 May 2008, the Spokesperson for Environment and Regeneration, Councillor McDill, the then Chair of the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum, Councillor Todd and Councillor Morrice attended the Group meeting. The Partnership Group meeting of 30 October 2009 was attended by Councillor McDill.
- 2.7 At the Goup's meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October, it was agreed that officers of the two local authorities should update the 1996 route strategy to focus on the four schemes not implemented, plus Mauchline By-pass and capacity enhancements to Bellfield Interchange. The revised strategy will be prepared by the end of 2009. It was also agreed to meet on a more regular basis and dates were set for three future Group meetings, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2010. Further Group meetings will be arranged, as necessary after August, 2010.

### **3. PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 The A76 runs through electoral Wards 6 (Irvine Valley), 7 (Ballochmyle) and 8 (Cumnock and New Cumnock).
- 3.2 It is proposed that in future, East Ayrshire Council will be represented at the Group meetings by the Spokesperson for Environment and Regeneration and one Member from each of the 3 Wards through which the A76 passes. The Members will be supported by appropriate senior officials from the Roads and Transportation Division.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATION**

- 5.1 None

### **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None

### **7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The objective of the A76 Corridor Partnership is to encourage Transport Scotland to improve the trunk road to enhance road safety and support economic regeneration in the former Coalfield Area and in the towns and

communities served by the route, in accordance with National, Regional and Local Transport Policies.

## **8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1** The objective of encouraging Transport Scotland to upgrade the A76 will contribute to the Improving Community Safety and Delivering Community Regeneration Community Plan themes.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1** A delay in selecting appropriate Members to attend the A76 Corridor Partnership Group may result in East Ayrshire Council not being fully represented at future Group meetings.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1** It is recommended that Cabinet agrees

to recommend to Council that East Ayrshire Council is represented at future A76 Corridor Partnership Group meetings by the Spokesperson for Environment and Regeneration and one Member from each of the three electoral wards that the A76 passes through, Ward 6 (Irvine Valley), Ward 7 (Ballochmyle) and Ward 8 (Cumnock and New Cumnock).

William Stafford  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JB  
25 November 2009

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Report to Development Services Committee 21 October 2003 "A76 Corridor Partnership"

For further information on the contents of this report please contact Keith Orton on 01563 555714

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