

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 20 FEBRUARY 2008

COMPLETION OF THE EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to negotiate a tender with Faber Maunsell to complete work on the Local Transport Strategy 2008 – 2013, and to ask Cabinet to endorse the proposed programme of stakeholder consultations programme set out in Appendix A to the report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The new Local Transport Strategy, which will cover the period 2008 to 2013, has been in development by the Roads and Transportation Division since 2006 and is now at an advanced stage.
- 2.2** Towards the end of 2007, as a result of a competitive tendering process, transport consultants Faber Maunsell were appointed to carry out the STAG appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Local Transport Strategy and this work is currently progressing, with completion expected by the end of June 2008.
- 2.3** When preparing and awarding the contract, it was intended that the finalising of the consultative draft Local Transport Strategy would be carried out by Roads and Transportation staff in-house and would progress in parallel with the work assigned to Faber Maunsell. This is no longer feasible because:-
- a) Several members of staff have left the employment of the Council, leaving the Traffic and Transportation Section significantly short staffed.
 - b) During 2007 the Roads and Transportation Division was successful in drawing down additional capital funding for a number of named projects from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. These projects must be completed and SPT invoiced before the end of financial year 2007/08 and it is therefore necessary to prioritise staff resources to the delivery of these schemes.
- 2.4** As a result, the completion of the Local Transport Strategy will be delayed, with a knock-on effect on the work currently being undertaken by Faber Maunsell, unless a consultant is appointed to carry out the final drafting of the Local Transport Strategy and stakeholder consultations.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1 With the Cabinet's approval, the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services will negotiate a tender with Faber Maunsell to complete work on the Local Transport Strategy 2008 – 2013, which will achieve the following benefits:-

- a) The work could be carried out timeously with no delay to the commissions to undertake the associated STAG Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment work;
- b) Faber Maunsell are likely to carry out the work at the same grade rates as those for the works that were won in competitive tender, thereby providing Best Value; and
- c) Faber Maunsell have extensive experience in drafting Local Transport Strategies for other local authorities, which would add value to the East Ayrshire Council document.

3.2 The estimated cost of completing the consultative draft Local Transport Strategy, including all necessary stakeholder consultations and preparation of a finalised Strategy is £30,000.

3.3 It is further proposed that the consultation programme set out in Appendix A should be used as the basis of the stakeholder consultations required prior to the adoption of the Local Transport Strategy.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council's standing orders in relation to contracts require Cabinet approval to be sought before tender negotiations can take place with a single contractor.

4.2 Standing Orders relating to contracts (paragraph 20(1)) state that—

“Where the appropriate Executive Director / Executive Head of Service / Head of Service considers that a tender should be negotiated with one person, he / she shall, before entering into negotiations, obtain the approval of the Cabinet, and of the person with whom the tender is to be negotiated, stating the reasons for the proposed negotiated procurement route.”

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A negotiated tender, valued at an estimated £30,000 will be agreed with the Consultant. These costs can be met from existing budgets.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Local Transport Strategy represents the Council's transportation policy aims and objectives over the coming five years and, in its Action Plan, sets out how these aims and objectives are to be achieved.

7. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Local Transport Strategy has direct links to the Community Plan and, through its Action Plan contributes to all Community Planning aims.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- a) remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate contract with Faber Maunsell to complete work on the Local Transport Strategy 2008 – 2013 and;
- b) endorses the programme of stakeholder consultations programme set out in Appendix A to this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/AW/KO/AJD

13TH February 2008

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on this report, please contact Keith Orton, Acting Chief Engineer, Transportation and Design (Tel: 01563 555714)

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APPENDIX A

CONSULTATIVE DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY: PROPOSED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Effective Stakeholder Consultation on the draft Local Transport Strategy will require the planning of consultations and exhibitions; production of exhibition materials; consultation execution and analysis of results. An initial outline of this task is set out below—

CONSULTATION LIST

During the development process, the list of key consultees, address and email details will be collated, including—

- Local People and Community groups;
- Businesses and business groups;
- Transport operators;
- Health providers;
- Education providers;
- Enterprise networks;
- Emergency providers;
- Neighbouring authorities;
- Community Planning Partners and Theme Groups
- Community Planning Residents' Panel; and
- Disability and other vulnerable groups.

It is intended that each group would be contacted by letter, and provided a copy of the Executive Summary and Action Plan, Questionnaire and an electronic link to the LTS document on the Council's website.

PLANNING EXHIBITIONS

Public exhibitions utilising EAC buildings in up to 15 locations in East Ayrshire in libraries, leisure facilities and other Council buildings. Installations could be in-situ for approximately 3-5 days in each location.

Effective publicity through posters, press adverts, local radio adverts and use of email to raise awareness amongst target consultees.

A minimum of six weeks is required for consultation, principally to enable community groups time to meet and consider the material, and then respond.

EXHIBITION MATERIAL

The content of the exhibition display boards should be—

- What is the LTS;
- Key Issues and Opportunities;
- What the LTS aims to achieve;
- Action Plan Priorities;
- Consultation and where to get more information;
- Questionnaires to comment on the draft LTS.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

All consultation responses will be logged within a database to aid analysis of—

- consultation responses by the specific point(s) made;
- the group or individual who made the point;
- the proposed response (e.g. amend strategy, contrary to strategy, non-strategic issue, etc.); and,
- details of how the strategy would be amended as a result.

This will result in a clear and transparent method of dealing with issues derived during consultation