

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 20 FEBRUARY 2008

CUMNOCK AREA TRANSPORT MODEL DEVELOPMENT

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to negotiate a contract with Colin Buchanan Consultants to extend the Kilmarnock Transport Model to cover the A76 corridor including Cumnock and Auchinleck.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following a competitive tendering exercise in 2006, Colin Buchanan Consultants were commissioned to prepare a strategic transport model for the Kilmarnock area. The model developed is multi-modal and includes car, bus and rail networks. To date, the model has been used to test the transport implications of the proposed local plan housing release in the Kilmarnock area as well as the local roads impact of proposed commercial developments in the town centre.

- 2.2 There is now a requirement to have a suitable transport modelling capability to assess the transport impacts of development proposals in the south of the area. Examples of key developments and proposals that will require an assessment of transport impacts include:-

- Strategic expansion site in Mauchline for approximately 800 new houses
- A bypass for Mauchline
- A new railway station at Mauchline
- Major housing release in the Cumnock/Auchinleck area including possible eco-village
- Opening of Dumfries House
- Cumnock town centre regeneration proposals

- 2.3 The model will facilitate land-use transportation planning and assist with the preparation of Transport Assessments for larger development proposals.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 With the Cabinet's approval the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services will negotiate a tender with Colin Buchanan to extend the existing VISUM transport model for Kilmarnock to cover the Cumnock / Auchinleck area. This approach has a number of advantages: -

- The consultant has considerable experience in the preparation of VISUM models and an existing model structure has already been developed;
- There will be a significantly reduced time and cost of developing the model;
- The costs for the additional work will be based on previously tendered rates;
- The Consultant previously collected much of the traffic data that will be needed to develop the model, under earlier contracts.

3.2 The estimated cost of developing the modelling strategy for the Cumnock / Auchinleck area, including the A76 corridor, is £25,000.

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 The Council's 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 £25,000 will be agreed with the contractor. The costs will be met from existing budgets.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An improved transport modelling capability will contribute to the Council's Local Transport Strategy transportation objectives for improving access on the road and public transport networks.

7. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The improved transport modelling capability will contribute towards Improving Opportunities in East Ayrshire.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

(i) remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate contract for the extension of the Kilmarnock Transport model to include the Cumnock /Auchinleck area and A76 corridor with Colin Buchanan Ltd; and

(ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/AW/KO/KC
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)

Implementation Officer: Alastair Wyper, Acting Head of Roads and Transportation (Tel: 01563 576310)