

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 21 NOVEMBER 2007

STRATHCLYDE PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPORT - ADDITIONAL SPT CAPITAL ALLOCATION

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Cabinet of additional capital funding award of £450,000 for transportation projects following a successful bid to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and to seek Cabinet agreement to implement the identified projects.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) has identified a projected underspend of approximately £8m in its 2007/08 capital programme, and has reviewed all its capital plans and projects including whether it was appropriate to advance the development of some projects. SPT also requested its constituent authorities to put forward views and suggestions for inclusion in a revised capital programme subject to the proviso that proposed projects must support the objectives of the Regional Transport Strategy and that projects must be completed by the end of March 2008.

- 2.2 The Roads Division subsequently submitted a bid to SPT for the following projects:

(i) Kilmarnock Car Parks Variable Messenger Signs (VMS) Signing	£100K
(ii) Stewarton Cycle Route	£ 25K
(iii) Bus Infrastructure	£100K
(iv) Parking Decriminalisation Preliminary Design	£ 25K
(v) Vehicle Activated Signs	£200K

- 2.3 The SPT Partnership considered the proposed amendments and additions to the capital programme at its meeting on 12 October 2007 and agreed to fund all of East Ayrshire's bid proposals in full.

3. CURRENT PROPOSALS

- 3.1 A summary of the proposals and progress to date is given below.

Kilmarnock Variable Messenger Signs (VMS) Signing (£100K)

- 3.2 It is proposed to introduce electronic variable message signs (VMS) in Kilmarnock town centre as part Top of the Town office development to help guide drivers to car parks with available spaces. SPT is currently funding £100K of the estimated total cost of £200K from this year's SPT capital programme following an earlier successful capital bid. The additional £100K contribution from SPT will now release Council funds to further improve pedestrian routes and public realm in the town centre to encourage walking and improve the attractiveness of the town for

economic activity. The tendering process for the procurement of the car park guidance system is currently underway and will be awarded pending the outcome of this report.

Stewarton Cycle Route (£25K)

- 3.3** The Council has already secured £75K funding from Sustrans in the current financial year to provide new cycle facilities in Stewarton including a new off-road cycle route. It was identified that the Sustrans funding would be insufficient to fully complete the project. The additional £25K from SPT will now ensure that a comprehensive scheme can be implemented. The design of this project is now underway.

Bus Infrastructure (£100K)

- 3.4** To date, 200 new bus shelters and more than 300 raised kerbs have been installed at bus stops throughout East Ayrshire. The investment in bus infrastructure facilities has improved access for the elderly, disabled and carers with young children and has contributed to significant increases in patronage on local routes. However, the Council continues to receive requests for further improvements throughout the area which cannot be met from existing budgets. A number of shelter and raised kerb requests have been held on file and the additional £100K SPT allocation will allow further bus stop facilities to be upgraded to a similar standard as that elsewhere on the bus network in East Ayrshire. It is proposed that priority will be given to completing sites in the A71, A76 and B7083 corridors and in rural communities which were the subject of earlier Public Transport Fund and SPT allocations which could not be completed at the time because of budget or other constraints.

Decriminalisation Preliminary Design & Parking Surveys (£25K)

- 3.5** Following Cabinet approval at its meeting on 3 October 2007, a tender has now been issued to undertake a feasibility study and to establish a business case for the introduction of a decriminalised parking enforcement scheme in East Ayrshire. The additional £25K now awarded from SPT will allow the study, including up to date parking surveys in Kilmarnock and Stewarton, to be fully funded.

Vehicle Activated Signs (£200K)

- 3.6** The Council has introduced route accident reduction schemes on a number of rural routes. The works have included a number of vehicle activated speed reduction and bend warning signs as part of the measures. The signs have proved popular and have been well received by Elected Members and public alike. The Roads Division has identified a possible further 30 locations on various routes which will ensure that a comprehensive and consistent series of signs is in place throughout the Council area to help tackle accident levels on rural routes and improve safety and the environment in communities. Priority will be given to communities located on the busier A & B class routes which have not previously been provided with such signs. The tender process for the new signs is currently underway to ensure that the Council complies with European procurement law and to ensure that all works can be completed within the current financial year.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. All contracts will be managed in accordance with Standing Orders.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As detailed in the report.

6. POLICY/COMMUNITY PLAN

6.1 The projects will contribute to the Local Transport Strategy objectives for transportation and will also contribute towards the Community Plan themes of Improving the Environment, Improving Community Safety, and Improving Opportunities.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Cabinet is requested to: -

- (i) note the additional capital funding award of £450,000 awarded to the Council for transportation projects following a successful bid to SPT; and
- (ii) agree that the Roads Division shall implement works on the projects set out in Section 3 of the report.

William Stafford

Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/KC/YK

7 November 2007

BACKGROUND PAPERS - Nil

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

Implementation Officer: keith.orton@east-ayrshire.gov.uk