

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 24 OCTOBER 2007

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION'S QUALITY OF LIFE
BUDGET 2007/08**

**Joint Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate
Support and Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report seeks agreement to reallocate the balance of the Quality of Life funding allocated to the widening of the Dunaskin Bridge on the A713 to accelerate the Bridges' Assessment Programme for this financial year and to the proposal that the cost of the bridge widening works at Dunaskin be sourced from an anticipated future Roads Capital Budget subject to the resolution of the necessary land acquisition.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the 21 June 2007 Council meeting, the Council agreed to reallocate £20,000 of 2006/07 Quality of Life underspend to the A713 Dunaskin bridge widening subject to the outcome of the external audit of the 2006/07 budgets.

3. REALLOCATION OF 2006/07 QUALITY OF LIFE UNDERSPEND

- 3.1 There are ongoing land acquisition issues associated with the proposed Dunaskin bridge widening. Whilst there has been some progress recently, there is uncertainty as to whether the land acquisition will be completed in time to draw down the allocated £20,000. Therefore, the Roads, & Transportation Division has requested that the balance of this £20,000, after paying for some site investigation works at the bridge, be reallocated to accelerate the current financial year's bridges capital programme. Specifically, this funding would allow a further package of bridge assessment work to be undertaken.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management has indicated that the reallocation of the 2006/07 Quality of Life underspend from the A713 Dunaskin bridge widening to accelerate the Bridges' Capital Programme for this financial year is acceptable subject to the outcome of the external audit of the 2006/07 budgets. It is anticipated that the cost of the bridge widening works at Dunaskin will be funded from an anticipated future Roads Capital Budget subject to the resolution of the necessary land acquisition.

5. LEGAL/PERSONNEL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The acceleration of the bridge assessment programme will contribute significantly to achieving targets contained in the “Improving the Environment” and “Improving Opportunities” Action Plans of the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The acceleration of the bridge assessment programme will enable the Roads & Transportation Division to identify a programme of works to strengthen/replace those structures that fail their load assessments. This would mitigate the potential exposure to third party claims for accidental death/bodily injury and would similarly reduce the potential exposure to unlimited fines and penalties from the Health and Safety Executive, the cost of which would not be recoverable from any insurer/insurance contract.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet agrees to reallocate the balance of the £20,000 Quality of Life funding allocated to the widening of the Dunaskin Bridge on the A713 to accelerate the Bridge Assessment Programme for this financial year, subject to both the outcome of the external audit of the 2006/07 budgets and agreement that the cost of the bridge widening works at Dunaskin be funded from an anticipated future Roads Capital Budget following the resolution of the necessary land acquisition.

Elizabeth Morton,
Depute Chief Executive/
Executive Director of Corporate Support
28 Aug 2007 (CMcK/)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report to Council – 21 June 2007, “Community, Heritage and Environment Projects Budgets 2006/07 – 2007/08”.

Anyone wishing further information should contact Karl Doroszenko, Development Planning & Regeneration Manager, Tel: 01563 576751

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: ALAN NEISH, HEAD OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT