

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING – 5 NOVEMBER 2008

DALDORCH FOOTBRIDGE CATRINE

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to re-allocate funds to enable the Council to proceed with the removal of the old footbridge and the construction of a new permanent replacement footbridge across the River Ayr at Daldorch, Catrine.

2. BACKGROUND

The original Victorian category “C(s)” listed footbridge crossing the River Ayr between Catrine and Daldorch was declared unsafe and closed to the public in November 2006. The footbridge is an important link from the National Autistic Society School at Daldorch to Catrine and also as part of the “Source to Sea” River Ayr Walk. Historic Scotland would only permit the installation of a temporary footbridge as a short term measure on the basis that proposals for a new permanent replacement footbridge would be developed to a high quality design. East Ayrshire Council under a lease arrangement installed a temporary footbridge in June 2007 and appointed engineers to carry out site investigations and design a new footbridge. The final report on the site investigations and recommended footbridge design were completed in March 2008 and were used as the basis for planning and listed building applications to remove the old footbridge and to construct a new one. The consents were awarded in August 2008.

The Roads and Transportation Division has also been seeking to optimise the use of the footpath route from Catrine to Sorn by upgrading it to an acceptable standard for cyclists. The new permanent footbridge has been designed to enable cyclists to utilise it.

The estimated cost for the removal of the old footbridge and construction of the new permanent footbridge is approximately £220,000. The cost of the upgrading of the footpath to a cycleway was estimated at £240,000. An overall total estimated cost for the project of £460,000

Funding of £50,000 towards the cost of the footbridge from Planning and Economic Development Division’s 2008/2009 revenue budget was approved by Cabinet in July 2008. Cabinet also approved the allocation

of an additional £60,000 from Corporate Support's Departmental General Fund Balances on 22 October 2008.

Cabinet, at its meeting of 4 June 2008 approved an allocation of £68,000 from the Roads and Transportation's Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets budget 2008/2009 towards the construction of the new footbridge and the upgrading of the footpath from Catrine to Sorn to a cycleway. An earlier bid to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport for funding for this project was unsuccessful and there are not sufficient funds available to complete the entire project in this financial year.

3 PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

- 3.1 To enable the allocated funding to be spent in this financial year it is intended to proceed with the removal of the old footbridge and the construction of a new permanent replacement footbridge as the first phase of this project with the upgrading of the footpath to a cycleway as the second phase. To help make up the funding needed to carry out the bridge works it is proposed re-allocate £30,000 from Roads and Transportation Division's Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets budget towards the construction of the footbridge rather than the Stewarton cycleway. It is not possible to proceed with the construction of the Stewarton cycleway in 2008/09 due of unresolved land issues.
- 3.2 If the Cabinet agrees to re-allocate £30,000 to the bridge works, as outlined in 3.1 above, the total funding available for the bridgeworks will be £208,000. It is proposed to seek Cabinet approval for £12,000 to be allocated from the contingency budget within the Capital Programme to complete the package of funding to allow tenders to be invited and subsequently let and the removal of the old footbridge and construction of a new footbridge at Daldorch, Catrine to proceed this financial year.
- 3.3 A further, recent bid, has been made to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport for a funding to carry out the upgrading of the footway to a cycleway between Catrine and Sorn, allowing for the completion of the whole project in 2009/10.
- 3.4 Subject to Cabinet approving the above financial arrangements, it is anticipated that the bridge works will commence on site early in the final quarter of the financial year 08/09 and be fully completed towards the end of the first quarter of the financial year 2009/10.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The re-allocation of £30,000 from the Roads and Transportation Division's Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets budget.
- 4.2 The allocation of £12,000 from the Capital Contingency for 2008/2009.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed contract for the removal of the old footbridge and the construction of a new permanent replacement footbridge will comply with the Standing Orders relating to contracts and tendering.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications

7. COMMUNITY PLAN/ POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The proposed project to replace the footbridge at Daldorch will contribute towards achieving targets within the 'improving the environment', "improving community safety" and "improving opportunities" objectives within the Community Plan.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The main contractor will be required to demonstrate compliance with the Council's insurance requirements, as specified by the Council's Risk Manager, and will also be required to ensure that sub-contractors are likewise insured.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Agree the two phased approach to this project, phase 1 the removal of the old footbridge and the construction of a new permanent footbridge at Daldorch, Catrine, and phase 2 the upgrading of the Catrine to Sorn footpath to cyclepath;
- (ii) Agree the re-allocation of £30,000 from the Roads and Transport Division's Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets budget for 2008/2009 and £12,000 from the contingency budget within the Capital Programme to allow the removal of the old footbridge and construction of a new footbridge at Daldorch, Catrine to proceed this financial year.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/
Executive Director of Corporate Support

William Stafford
Executive Director of
Neighbourhood Services

30 October 2008

WS/JB/DD

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (1) Report to Cabinet – 4 June 2008 “Bridges, Traffic, Transportation and Road”
- (2) Report to Cabinet – 2 July 2008 “Regeneration Projects and Budget Allocations”
- (3) Report to Cabinet – 22 October “Finance and Service Strategy Report to Period 6 (21 September 2008)”

Anyone wishing further information should contact Karl Doroszenko, Development Planning and Regeneration Manager on 01563 576751 or Keith Orton, Acting Chief Engineer on 01563 575714

Implementation Officer: Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Economic Development (01563) 576759 or John Bryson, Head of Roads (01563) 576310