

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 3RD OCTOBER 2007

A76 CROSSROADS ROUNDABOUT – FEE INCOME ALLOCATION

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request the agreement of the re-allocation of the net fee income from the A76 Crossroads Roundabout.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The design and supervision of construction of the A76 Crossroads Roundabout in 2003 was carried out by East Ayrshire Council on behalf of the Scottish Executive.

- 2.2 At its meeting on 8th March 2006, the Development Services Committee heard that, after the deduction of costs and expenses incurred, the project would generate a surplus to the Council of £150,000, to be held in the Roads Account. The Committee agreed that the income would be allocated to the following projects as follows:-

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Bridge Assessments | £80,000 |
| • Southcraigs-Dalmusternock Cycle Track | £30,000 |
| • Strategic Transportation Assessments | £40,000 |

- 2.3 Due to prudent management, however, the funding required to complete the Southcraigs/Dalmusternock cycle track were met from existing budgets in 2006-07 without the requirement to use the A76 Crossroads surplus funding. This budget is therefore available for reallocation along with a further £60,000 additional income.

3. CURRENT PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Following settlement of all outstanding payments in respect of the A76 Crossroads Roundabout, except for payment of retention to the principal contractor, the current surplus balance is £210,000.

- 3.2 It is now proposed that the finalised balance is allocated on the following basis: -

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Lugar Bridge Widening | £80,000 |
| • Bridge assessment programme | £28,000 |
| • Feasibility Study for Parking Decriminalisation | £45,000 |
| • Strategic Transportation Assessments | £47,000 |
| • Retention in respect of Crossroads Roundabout | £10,000 |

3.2.1 Lugar Bridge Widening

This scheme is to widen the existing Lugar Bridge, which carries Auchinleck Road over the Lugar Water in Cumnock, to improve access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the bridge. The works on site are nearing completion.

The lowest tender, submitted by Messrs I H Borland amounted to £486,404. In addition to the construction costs, Consultants design fees, Statutory Undertaker costs and site supervision costs give a total cost of £554,000. The bridge works began on 30 October, 2006. Part funding for the scheme has been secured from the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund, Departmental General Reserves and the Bridges Capital Budget. £80,000 has been committed from the A76 Crossroads Roundabout Fee Income to complete the necessary funding package for the bridge widening.

3.2.2 Bridge Assessments

With the introduction of the 40 tonne lorry to Britain's roads in 1999, all bridges are required to be assessed to determine their load carrying capacity.

70 bridges are currently being assessed, with a further 30 due to be commenced next month.

The additional allocation will contribute to this ongoing programme, by funding about 15 assessments.

The bridge assessment situation was previously reported to Development Service Committee on 12 October 2005

3.2.3 Parking Decriminalisation Feasibility Study

The current approved Local Transport Strategy includes a commitment to evaluate a decriminalised parking enforcement scheme for East Ayrshire. The Road Traffic Act 1991 provides for local authorities to apply for powers to decriminalise parking offences and allow local authorities to take over the responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions from the Police. There are several potential advantages of local authority enforcement of on-street parking regulations as follows:

- Effective implementation of parking policies to improve traffic flows, enhance safety and manage the parking stock;
- Better management of disabled parking bays, bus stops and on-street loading bays;
- More flexibility to deal with parking at the school gate and other specific issues.
- Income from fines retained by the Council.

An initial appraisal indicates that a decriminalised parking enforcement could be feasible in East Ayrshire. A detailed feasibility study, business case and further parking surveys now need to be undertaken in order to demonstrate that a decriminalised parking scheme for East Ayrshire is feasible and that the benefits and disadvantages are fully explored prior to an informed decision being taken by Elected Members.

3.2.4 Strategic Transportation Assessments

This funding will be used to carry out the necessary transportation assessments required as input to the development of the Local Transport Strategy, taking account of Structure Plan policies, alterations to the local Plan and development issues such as Dumfries House. An accessibility analysis of public transport access to health care facilities, employment and social facilities has now been commissioned. Funding is also proposed for the Strategic Environmental Assessment which is a statutory requirement for the Local Transport Strategy under development.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As the successful completion of the A76 Crossroads Roundabout contract will result in final net fee income of approximately £0.210M being realised. The release of this balance to the Roads Revenue Account would enable the completion of the specific projects set out in paragraph 3.2 which include an allocation to the Lugar Bridge widening works which are nearing completion.

6. POLICY/COMMUNITY PLANNING

6.1 The proposed projects will contribute to the Council's strategies for improving access and safety on the road network, and improving opportunities in East Ayrshire.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the proposed re-allocation of the A76 Crossroads Roundabout fee income as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JK/KC

17th September 2007

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Development Services Committee Report dated 8th March 2006

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper listed above should telephone 01563 555714 and ask for Keith Orton, Acting Chief Engineer, Traffic & Transportation.

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