

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 9 JANUARY 2007

REVISION TO ROADS AND STRUCTURES DESIGN CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2006/07

Report By Acting Executive Director of Development & Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:-

- (a) seek the Committees approval for the re-allocation of £170,000 of Bridges Capital Allocation to part fund the Lugar Bridge Widening Scheme.
- (b) seek the Committee's approval to increase the Contract for the A71 Riccarton Bridge Steelwork Painting and Bird Proofing, to paint one or two further spans.
- (c) seek the Committee's approval to commit the necessary funds from the 2007-08 Bridges budget to the implementation of the C134 Birkhill Culvert replacement scheme which is programmed to commence in 2006-07.
- (d) seek the Committee's approval to commit £50,000 from the 2007-08 Bridges Budget for Network Rail Bridge Assessments

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At its meeting on 20 June 2006, the Committee approved the Roads and Structures Design Capital Programme for 2006/07 which included proposals for Birkhill Bridge replacement, Darvel, the assessment of Network Rail and Council Bridges and the replacement of the Whiteflats Bridge deck, Catrine.

2.2 There has been slippage in the programme because:-

- (a) The commitment of staff to the design and procurement of two major schemes for the realignment of the A70 at Welltrees and the widening of the Lugar Water Bridge at Cumnock has delayed the progress of other parts of the Capital programme;
- (b) Network Rail has not progressed the assessment of road over rail bridges which the Council is obliged to fund; and
- (c) The tender price for replacing the deck of Whiteflats Bridge in Catrine, is lower than the budget provision.

2.3 The slippage in the programme amounts to approximately £200,000. It is proposed to reallocate these funds to bridges schemes which are programmed to be completed in the 2006-07 financial year, as set out in Section 3 below.

- 2.4 Two budgetary commitments have been identified for the 2007-08 financial year. These are set out in Section 4 below.

3. PROPOSED BUDGET PROGRAMME 2006-07

3.1 A71 Riccarton Bridge Steelwork Painting and Bird Proofing Contract-Additional Works

The Roads Division is undertaking a scheme to install pigeon netting to the underside of the A71 Riccarton Bridge in Kilmarnock and carry out essential maintenance painting to the ends of the steel beams on all 6 spans. Hyspec Services Ltd. is currently on site carrying out these works having successfully won the contract under competitive tender for the sum of £61,220.

At the meeting of the Special Development Services Committee on 28 November, 2006 approval was given to increase the Contract to carry out essential cleaning and painting of the beams forming the most easterly span of the structure, which were showing extensive surface corrosion.

It is now proposed to reallocate £30,000 to paint the beams of a second span of the structure. The Contractor has indicated that he is prepared to carry out these additional works at the rates set out in the existing Contract.

If funding allows it is proposed that further spans will be similarly painted.

3.2 Lugar Bridge Widening

The scheme is to widen the existing bridge, which carries the Auchinleck Road over the Lugar Water in Cumnock, to improve the access and safety of pedestrians and cyclists crossing the bridge.

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.

Committed funding includes £178,000 Public Transport Funding, £130,000 Departmental General Reserves Funding (approved at the 12 October 2005 meeting of the Committee) and £80,000 Revenue funding (approved at the 8 March 2006 meeting of the Committee).

It is proposed that £170,000 is reallocated to complete the funding package needed for the Lugar Bridge Widening Scheme. This includes a provision for contingencies

4. 2007-08 BUDGETCOMMITMENTS

4.1 Assessment of Network Rail Bridges

The Council has a legal agreement with Network Rail to fund the load assessment of road over rail bridges in East Ayrshire. Under the terms of the Agreement Network Rail must procure the professional services required to carry out these load assessments and the Council is responsible for meeting the cost.

Network Rail has indicated that the cost of carrying out the necessary rail bridge assessments will be in the order of £50,000 and provision has been made in the approved capital programme for 2006-07 to meet these costs. Network Rail has now indicated that they have been unable to progress the assessments and it will be next financial year before the works are undertaken

It is proposed to commit £50,000 from the Capital Budget in the 2007-08 financial year, to fund the Network Rail bridge assessments.

4.2 C134 Birkhill Bridge Replacement

Birkhill Bridge on the C134 near Lanfine Estate, Darvel has suffered varying degrees of failure and a scheme to replace the structure is currently out to tender. The estimated cost of the works is £110,000.

The Committee approved an allocation of £60,000 in the 2006-07 Bridges Capital Budget. The programmed start date for the scheme is February 2007 and will take approximately 12 weeks to implement.

It is proposed to commit the necessary funds, currently estimated at £50,000, from the 2007-08 Capital Budget, in order to allow this contract to be awarded.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The schemes will be funded as detailed in Section 3 and Section 4 above.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Roads Authorities have a duty to manage and maintain public roads. This duty includes the proper maintenance of all structures carrying the road.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Bridges are an essential component of the road infrastructure, and closure of any bridge as a consequence of deterioration from a lack of maintenance would be in conflict with the Council's policies for improving opportunities, accessibility, social inclusion and non-discrimination.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The Committee is asked to approve:-

- (i) The re-allocation of £170,000 of Bridges Capital Allocation to part fund the Lugar Bridge Widening Scheme;
- (ii) Extending the existing Contract for A71 Riccarton Bridge Steelwork Painting and Bird Proofing to paint the beams supporting one further span and also to give approval for a further span to be painted if funding allows;
- (iii) The commitment of the necessary funds from the 2007-08 Bridges Budget to allow the implementation of the C134 Birkhill Culvert replacement scheme to proceed;
- (iv) The commitment of £50,000 from the 2007-08 Bridges Budget for Network Rail Bridge Assessments.

James T. Kane
Acting Executive Director of Development & Property Services
18 December 2006
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Roads and Structures Design Capital Programme for 2006/07
Special Development and Property Services Committee – 20 June 2006

A71 Riccarton Bridge Steelwork Painting and Bird Proofing Contract – Additional Works
Special Development and Property Services Committee – 28 November 2006

For further information please contact Alan Ierland on 01563 576310

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