

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT & PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 JUNE 2005

QUEENS DRIVE WIDENING - KILMARNOCK

Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To update Members on the progress of the scheme to widen Queens Drive between Bellfield and Hurlford Road.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At its meeting on 21 March 2005, the Emergency Powers Committee authorised the Head of Roads & Transportation to negotiate a contract with Barr Limited for the widening of Queens Drive, to be carried out within their Bellfield reconstruction scheme.

The advantage to East Ayrshire was that extensive traffic management arrangements would already be in place for the Bellfield work. This would include the temporary removal of the traffic island at Queens Drive, which would assist traffic access during the Queens Drive widening. Barr had also, informally, indicated that they would consider doing the Queens Drive work at the same rates and prices as these submitted to Amey through competitive tender for the Bellfield Work.

3. OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

- 3.1** In the detailed negotiations Barr were not, in fact, able to offer East Ayrshire the same rates as the Bellfield work due to the difference in scale and pricing structure of the two schemes. Although the total cost quoted was not unreasonable, the Council could not properly demonstrate that the rates were competitive.

In addition, Amey insisted on Barr completing all the Bellfield work before starting Queens Drive, leaving East Ayrshire to meet the cost of replacing the Queens Drive traffic island at Bellfield. The temporary absence of the island would have been advantageous, but not essential, for traffic access during the Queens Drive widening, so there would have been no merit in East Ayrshire meeting this additional cost.

Therefore, as a result of the detailed discussions with Barr and Amey, it became clear that the exceptional reasons which would have justified a negotiated tender no longer existed.

4. CURRENT PROPOSALS

- 4.1** In the event, because of the extended duration of the Bellfield scheme and the disruption to traffic caused by it, further roadworks immediately following on in Queens Drive would not have been welcomed by local businesses or the public.

The Head of Roads & Transportation now proposes to put the Queens Drive widening scheme out to competitive tender in the normal way. The intention is to do this in June with a view to carrying out the works in the summer period.

The construction works are expected to take 2/3 weeks.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The cost of the works, estimated at £90,000 including additional street lighting and ducting work, will be funded from the Roads & Transportation's Capital Road Safety budget for 2005/06.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** The Committee is invited to note the contents of this report.

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Executive Director of Development and Property Services

24 May 2005
SH/YK

BACKGROUND PAPERS

For further information on the contents of this report please contact Sandy Gillatt
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