

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICE COMMITTEE – 10 MARCH 2004

WESTRANS CORE TEAM MANAGER/JOINT TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Report By Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Purpose of the report is to advise the Committee on:

- (i) the appointment of a Manager for the WESTRANS Core Team.
- (ii) The current status on the draft WESTRANS Joint Transport Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At its meeting on 26 August 2003 the Committee approved the establishment of a Core Team for WESTRANS. The Report to that Committee also noted the requirement to produce a Joint Transport Strategy (JTS) for the WESTRANS area, as soon as possible.

3. THE WESTRANS CORE TEAM

3.1 Following an open advertisement and selection interview process a Core Team Manager has now been appointed.

3.2 Further staff posts in the Core Team have now been advertised.

4. THE WESTRANS JOINT TRANSPORT STRATEGY (JTS)

4.1 The WESTRANS Officers' Group has been working to produce a draft JTS for consultation, with a view to the first formal WESTRANS JTS being finalised and agreed by all WESTRANS constituent members by autumn 2004. The draft JTS will be submitted to a future Development Services Committee for comment and approval.

4.2 The draft JTS has been approved by the WESTRANS Joint Committee and is now in the process of final editing, which will be completed in the next few weeks. The Core Team and Officers Group will then proceed to full public consultation on the strategy.

4.3 As the JTS will be the basis for future strategic transportation decisions concerning the West of Scotland, the public consultation process will be wide ranging and inclusive.

4.4 The WESTRANS JTS will also be the framework for the constituent members' own Local Transport Strategies, which are due to be reviewed and updated by the end of 2004/early 2005.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A Joint Transport Strategy for the WESTRANS area is part of Government strategy for developing integrated transport in Scotland.

6. FINANCIAL

6.1 The Scottish Executive has agreed to contribute up to 80% funding towards the cost of the Core Team in the initial year with the remainder being funded by the constituent authorities on a pro-rata basis by population.

6.2 The position will be reviewed annually by the Scottish Executive, the aim being eventually equal funding by the SE and the constituent authorities.

6.3 The pro-rata share of the cost for East Ayrshire Council is approximately £3000 which can be met from existing budgets.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 A minute of agreement has been drawn up by Renfrewshire Council and signed by all constituent authorities.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested to note:

- (a) the appointment of a Manager for the WESTRANS Core Team.
- (b) The current status of the draft WESTRANS Joint Transport Strategy.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services
SG/SH/YK
17 February, 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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