

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 9 MARCH 2005

‘EuroRAP’ 2005 – A71 ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT

Report By Executive Director of Development & Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of the improvement in the status of the A71 in the latest AA European Road Assessment Programme ‘EuroRAP’.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Automobile Association (AA) Motoring Trust carry out a European route accident assessment programme each year and the results are published annually in the form of ‘league’ tables. In 2004 the A71 from Kilmarnock to the M74 was listed as one of ten routes in the UK with the highest number of fatal and serious crashes for the three years 1998 – 2000. The results are not broken down into Council Areas.

3. The 2005 EuroRAP Results

- 3.1 The 2005 EuroRAP results, published on 9 March 2005, show that the A71 has progressed to the list of ‘most improved’ road sections due to the substantial reduction in the number of fatal and serious crashes for the three years 2001 – 2003.
- 3.2 This is a considerable achievement, and it is encouraging to note that the investment by East Ayrshire in road safety is having the desired effect. The measures carried out on the A71 by East Ayrshire since 2001 include:
- The installation of gateway features, including signs, markings and coloured surfacing on the approaches to all of the communities along the route.
 - The installation of a fixed speed camera at an accident ‘blackspot’ in Newmilns
 - Anti-skid surfacing on a bend in Hurlford where excessive speeds were resulting in accidents due to loss of control.
 - The introduction of a new speed limit, coupled with pedestrian barriers and signal-controlled crossing points in the vicinity of the Loudoun Academy in Galston
 - The upgrading of the street lighting to whiter high pressure sodium lighting within all the communities along the route
 - Almost £200,000 spent on resurfacing, surface repairs and upgrading of existing road markings.
- 3.3 The full length of the A71 within East Ayrshire has been designated a “Quality Bus Corridor”. As well as modern bus stop infrastructure, the works being carried out over 2004/06 include new and extended speed limits, traffic calming, improved parking arrangements, improved sightlines, pedestrian

access measures and new pedestrian crossings.

- 3.4 This work is being funded by the Scottish Executive through a successful bid by East Ayrshire Roads for Public Transport Funds.
- 3.5 In addition, the Roads Division is devising and implementing Route Action Plans for all rural 'A' Class routes in East Ayrshire. Plans for the A71, A70 and A713 are at various stages of design and implementation. These measures include upgraded road markings and studs, new warning signs, chevrons, verge marker posts, anti-skid surfacing etc.

The Future Challenge

- 3.6 East Ayrshire, in partnership with Strathclyde Police, is tackling road safety through a combination of physical measures, enforcement, education, cycle training and innovation.
- 3.7 The focus has always been on giving priority to those roads or locations where there is a current accident history, and this policy is paying dividends. Recent ring-fenced funding for specific measures such as 'Twenty's Plenty' or Safer Routes to School have provided an opportunity to introduce these measures over a wider area.
- 3.8 The challenge is to keep up this investment in new initiatives, ensure resources are available to maintain them in the future, and continue to build on the acknowledged success to date.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested to note the contents of this Report.

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services

10 January 2005

SG/SH

BACKGROUND PAPERS

**For further information on the contents of this report please contact
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