

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 6 MARCH 2007

ROADS DIVISION BUDGETS FOR 2007 - 2008

Report by the Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to request the Committee to:

- Agree the implementation of the works programmes outlined in the report
- Authorise the Executive Director of Development & Property Services to write to the Transport Minister requesting that funding for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets and 20mph Zones be continued after March 2008
- Approve and additional allocation of £60,000 through Prudential borrowing for the Cumnock Parking Strategy in 2007/08

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The programmes for consideration, budgets and sources of funding are as follows:-

Fund	Sum	Source
Cycling Walking and Safer Streets	- £212,000	Scottish Executive
20mph Zones	- £271,000	Scottish Executive
Capital Road Safety	- £150,000	East Ayrshire Council
Disabled Access	- £10,000	East Ayrshire Council
Quality of Life	- £130,000	East Ayrshire Council
Rural Route Action Plans	- £150,000	East Ayrshire Council
Rural Improvement Schemes	- £75,000	East Ayrshire Council
Bus Infrastructure Improvements	- £10,000	East Ayrshire Council
Cumnock Parking Policy	- £145,000	East Ayrshire Council
Regional Cycle Routes	- £150,000	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
Cycle Route Studies	- £20,000	SPT
Kilmarnock Car Park Signs	- £100,000	SPT

2.2 Each budget has a different purpose and different guidelines for expenditure. However, improving road safety is a common objective. Road accident casualties have reduced significantly in recent years and the national targets for road casualty reductions for 2010 have already been met. The number of road casualties in East Ayrshire has reduced by 33% from the baseline years of 1994 -1998. The Road accident statistics recently published by the Scottish Executive for 2005 show that the number of people killed and seriously injured in East Ayrshire reduced by 62% compared to the base-line years and child fatal and serious injury casualties were down by 75%. Nonetheless, there continue to be accident problems, particularly on rural single carriageway roads where incidents sometimes result in fatalities or serious injury.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 Cycling Walking and Safer Streets (£212,000)

The Scottish Executive has allocated East Ayrshire Council £212,000 in 2007/2008 to improve facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users such as children travelling to and from school.

The following projects have been identified as being beneficial to pedestrians and cyclists :-

Project	Preliminary Estimate
Pedestrian Improvements at Onthank and Mount Carmel Primary School	£30,000
Pedestrian Improvements Ayr Road Caprington Avenue	£25,000
Knockentiber, Pedestrian/Cycle access to National Cycle Route	£25,000
Kilmarnock, Kinloch Road/ Hurlford Road pedestrian improvements and traffic calming	£40,000
Waterside, A719 +Fenwick Road Traffic Calming	£40,000
Kilmarnock, Dean Road (carried over from 2006-07)	£25,000
Footway Fenwick Main Street	£35,000
TOTAL	£220,000

The preliminary estimates will be subject to review once detailed designs are carried out.

It is proposed that the projects listed above are implemented in the 2007/2008 financial year up to the limit of the current allocation.

This is the final year of the Scottish Executive's ring-fenced funding for Cycling Walking and Safer Streets projects. The budget has over the last 6 years allowed East Ayrshire Council to implement pedestrian, traffic calming and road safety schemes in residential areas and in the vicinity of schools which have contributed to the significant improvements in pedestrian and child safety. It is proposed to request the Scottish Executive to continue this budget in future years to build on the road safety successes that have been achieved and to encourage walking and cycling as environmentally friendly, sustainable, healthy modes of transport for shorter journeys.

3.2 20mph Zones (£271,000)

The Scottish Executive has allocated £271,000 for the provision of 20mph speed limits on roads. Full time and part time 20mph speed limits have already been provided on roads adjacent to 53 schools in East Ayrshire. In the 2006 -07 financial year 20mph speed limits were extended into eight residential areas.

Further residential areas have been identified where it is considered that the implementation of a lower speed limit would benefit the communities at the following locations :-

Project	Preliminary Estimate
Cumnock, Hearth Road, Emrys Avenue	£5,000
Cumnock, Holmhead	£4,000
Auchinleck, Old Avenue, Back Rogerton Cres, Church Street, Barbieston Road etc..	£55,000
Stewarton, Lainshaw area	£40,000
Stewarton, Braemore Road, Ravenscraig Road	£4,000
Crosshouse, Annandale View	£4,000
Crosshouse, Crossdene Road	£30,000
Crosshouse, Craiglea Avenue, Busbie View	£30,000
Galston, Western Road	£5,000
Kilmaurs, Benrigg Avenue	£5,000
Mauchline, Arran View	£4,000
Mauchline, Fernlea	£4,000
New Cumnock, Lime Road, Dalhanna Drive, Cairnhill	£4,000
Patna, Carnshalloch Avenue, Dallharco Avenue	£5,000
Conversion of Twenty's Plenty Zones to mandatory 20mph Zones	£72,000
TOTAL	£271,000

Several 20mph zones are adjacent to existing 20's Plenty areas. Where possible, it is proposed that Orders are promoted to incorporate the advisory 20's Plenty areas into the mandatory 20mph Zones. The Police have indicated initial support for this approach. However, additional traffic calming will be required in some streets to ensure compliance with the mandatory speed limit.

This is the final year of the Scottish Executive's ring fenced funding for 20mph zones. The budget has, over the last 4 years, allowed East Ayrshire Council to introduce mandatory 20mph speed limits in the vicinity of most schools and in 33 residential areas, improving safety, encouraging walking and cycling and enhancing the attractiveness of the environment in local communities. Nonetheless, there are many untreated residential areas which would benefit from lower speed limits. It is proposed to ask the Scottish Executive to continue this budget in future years to build on the successes that have been achieved in improving road safety and encouraging walking and cycling as environmentally friendly, sustainable and healthy modes of transport for short journeys. Without such funding it is unlikely that the programme to introduce 20mph zones in residential areas can be continued.

3.3 Capital Road Safety (£150,000)

The table below is separated into two parts. The upper part lists Road Safety schemes identified from the annual accident analysis. The lower part lists schemes which have been requested by the local community.

Project	Preliminary Estimate
Road Safety schemes identified from the annual accident analysis	
B705 East of Catrine	£2,000
A70 West of Glenbuck	£4,000
Newmilns, Loudoun Road	£30,000
B751, North of Gatehead	£3,000
Kilmarnock, Beansburn Road	£10,000
B730, Littlemill to Polnessan	£7,000
A71 Loudounhill Inn	£4,000
B7037 North of A77 off ramp	£15,000
Kilmarnock TC signing and lining	£10,000
Schemes requested by the local community	
Drongan, Watson Terrace	£30,000
Auchinleck, Barony Road	£25,000
Kilmarnock, Bonnyton Road	£20,000
Mauchline, Catrine Road	£20,000
Kilmarnock, Nursery Avenue	£15,000
A71 Priestland	£25,000
A71 Darvel Road, Newmilns	£10,000
Kilmarnock, Homes Road (carried over from 2006/07)	£20,000
TOTAL	£230,000

The preliminary estimates will be subject to review once detailed designs are carried out. The Road Safety Schemes identified from the annual accident analysis will be implemented first. The remaining budget will be used to carry out works listed under "Schemes Requested by the Local Community", in the order they are listed above. Any scheme not carried out in the 2007-08 financial year will be implemented in the next financial year unless slippage in expenditure allows them to be completed in 2007-08.

It is proposed that the road safety measures for Kilmarnock, Homes Road, are not progressed at this time due to significant lighting improvements being required to allow the scheme to proceed.

3.4 Disabled Access (£10,000)

This funding allocation of £10,000 allows the Roads Division to respond to requests for dropped kerbs, to assist the movement of vulnerable road users including the elderly, wheel chair and electric mobility scooter users.

3.5 Quality of Life (£130,000)

At the Committee meeting in June 2005 approval was given for a programme of works which included advisory Twenty's Plenty speed limits in residential areas and rural route action plans on A' class routes.

76 Twenty's Plenty schemes have now been introduced in residential areas throughout East Ayrshire.

Rural action plans have been completed on the A713 and A70. The A71, A736 and the A735 will be completed by the end of the current financial year.

Twenty's Plenty - As in previous years it is proposed to use a portion of the Quality of Life budget to provide further Twenty's Plenty areas on the basis of requests that have been received, providing the proposals comply with the Scottish Executive criteria. At present three requests have been received. i.e. Gilmour Street Kilmarnock; Kier Hardie Hill, Cumnock; Belvedere View, Galston. Any further requests will be considered for inclusion in the programme. An allocation of £15,000 is proposed for the implementation of Twenty's Plenty schemes in 2007-08.

Rural Route Action Plans – It is proposed to implement rural route action plan measures on the A759 and A719 during the financial year to March 2008.

The action plan measures include road markings, verge marker posts, warning signs and chevron signs. These are provided to bends along the route in a graduated manner to help drivers maintain the appropriate speed when approaching the various hazards. Reflective bollards are provided at accesses and minor roads in conjunction with enhanced signage, when necessary, to alert drivers of the possibility of turning traffic. New road studs and lining will also be provided, as required.

It is proposed that remaining funds available from the Quality of Life budget will be used to carry out further works on the remaining untreated 'A' class routes. The proposed expenditure is summarised below :-

Scheme	Preliminary Estimate
Twenty's Plenty	£15,000
A719 Rural Route Action Plan	£95,000
A759 Rural route action Plan	£20,000
TOTAL	£130,000

The preliminary estimates will be subject to review once detailed designs are carried out. Should the final estimates be less than as shown above, then it is proposed that the remaining available budget is used to carry out works on the 'B' class routes as detailed in paragraph 3.6 below.

3.6 Rural Route Action Plans (£150,000)

A significant proportion of the most serious and fatal road accidents in East Ayrshire occur on rural single carriageway roads. This budget is being used to accelerate the provision of road safety measures on the remaining rural routes in East Ayrshire as detailed in the table below.

In addition, it is proposed to carry out a further assessment to identify bends on routes which require skid resistant surfacing to further reduce the potential for accidents.

Rural Route	Rural Length	No. Injury Accidents	Injury Accidents/km	Estimated Cost
B778 Fenwick to Stewarton	4km	15	3.8	£30,000
B751 Gatehead to Fenwick	7km	18	2.6	£40,000
B769 Stewarton to Glasgow	7km	13	1.9	£40,000
B743 Mauchline to A70 Junction	15km	14	0.9	£110,000
B741 New Cumnock to Dalmellington	14km	8	0.6	£105,000
Anti Skid Surfacing				£40,000
TOTAL				£365,000

The works will be prioritised on the basis of the accident analysis of each route, in order to maximise the benefits in terms of road safety. The accident statistics in the above table are based on the most recent five year period.

It is proposed that Rural Route Action Plan measures will be implemented on routes B778, B751 and B769 in 2007-08 along with anti-skid surfacing. It is proposed that works on the B743 and B741 will be carried out in subsequent financial years unless slippage from other budgets permit an earlier start.

3.7 Rural Improvement Schemes (£75,000) – SPT have identified in their Regional Transport Strategy, strategic interventions which include improved access by all appropriate modes to Strategic Employment Locations. It is proposed that the allocation of £75,000 is used in partnership with funding from SPT to carry out studies to identify improvements on rural routes to East Ayrshire particularly the A71 and A70 and to implement early action measures to enhance safety and accessibility on these routes, when appropriate.

3.8 Bus Infrastructure Improvements (£10,000) - In recent years bus stops have been upgraded with funding from the Scottish Executive Public Transport Funds (PTF) and WESTRANS. To date raised kerbs have been provided at 329 bus stops and 183 new bus shelters have been erected. A further 11 new shelters will be erected by 31 March 2007.

The Council's allocation of £10,000 will allow additional minor improvements as required, to be carried out during the year to complement the significant work that has been carried out to date.

3.9 Cumnock Parking Policy (£85,000) – Consultants JMP are currently carrying out a study of off-street car parking provision in Cumnock.

The consultants are preparing a detailed scheme for implementing short stay parking and carrying out a feasibility study and preliminary design of a new long-stay car park at the former Council cleansing yard.

The aim of the strategy is to cater for the existing town centre parking demand. Future town centre regeneration proposals, which may include retail and office developments, will necessitate an increase in parking provision to cater for the associated developments.

The allocated funding of £85,000 will be used to implement measures following the recommendations by consultants JMP. It is anticipated that additional funding of at least £60,000 will be required to provide long-stay parking and implement the strategy in 2007-08. It is proposed that this additional funding is raised in accordance with the Prudential Code. If the Committee approves this additional allocation, the expenditure on the Cumnock parking strategy will be £145,000 in 2007-08.

3.10 Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), Regional Cycle Routes (£150,000) - Work was carried out for the provision of a cycleway between Hurlford and Galston, 3.5km, along the former railway route with a stone surface. This earlier stage was funded from the Cycling Walking and Safer Streets budget and a contribution from Sustrans. The funding for 2007/08 from SPT will allow the surfacing of this section with a finishing coat of bitumen surfacing.

3.11 Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), Cycle Route Studies (£20,000) – It is propose that a study will be carried out to identify new cycle routes to provide cross boundary links to existing routes in adjacent council areas.

3.12 Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), Kilmarnock Car Park Signs (£100,000) – The Planning Approval for the Top of The Town Office Development is conditional on the provision of variable message signing (VMS) on the approaches to Kilmarnock town centre to direct traffic to the most convenient long or short stay car parks. The signs will minimise the need for traffic circulation, reduce congestion and improve road safety. The SPT allocation of £100,000 is a contribution to the VMS signs which are programmed for implementation during the 2007-08 financial year.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Traffic Regulation Orders will be require to be promoted for the introduction of mandatory 20 mph zone schemes. When required, an Order will be promoted in accordance with the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended and the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999. The Statutory process for promoting an Order includes extensive consultation and a period of advertisement during which the public has the right to make objections. The minimum timescale for an order is generally approximately 9 months. However, this time can be significantly increased if there are objections from the public.

A Road Humps Notice will be processed under the terms of the Road Scotland Act 1984 when required.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Road Safety measures will be funded from the various budgets as stated in paragraph 2.1
- 5.2** The Committee is asked to approve additional expenditure of £60,000 for the Cumnock Parking Strategy in 2007-08. If approved, it will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee that the additional sum will be raised in accordance with the Prudential Code.
- 5.3** There will be added maintenance costs arising from the need to maintain traffic calming measures, cleanse and maintain new road signs and cleanse new bus shelters on a regular basis.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The respective programmes have been designed to meet the Council's Local Transport Strategy objectives in terms of reducing road accidents, encouraging cycling walking, increasing the usage of public transport and improving access for communities and vulnerable road users, as appropriate.

7. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** The Road Safety programmes will provide benefits to communities throughout East Ayrshire through improvements to road safety;

Rural route action plans and improvements to bus infrastructure will enhance access, work and educational opportunities.

Cycling Walking and Safer Streets and 20mph Zones will encourage walking and cycling to improve the environment and promote a healthy lifestyle.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** It is recommended that the Committee : -
- (a) agrees to the implementation of the works programmes as outlined in section 3 of the report
 - (b) authorises the Executive Director of Development and Property Services to write to the Transport Minister requesting that funding for Cycling Walking and Safer Streets and 20mph Zones be continued after March 2008;
 - (c) approves an additional allocation of £60,000 for the Cumnock Parking Strategy in 2007-08;

James T Kane
Acting Executive Director of Development Services
26 February 2007
NB

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on this report, please contact Keith Orton, Acting Chief Engineer, Roads Division, Traffic Section (Tel: 01563 555714)

Implementation Officer: Neil Bell, Acting Principal Engineer, Roads Division, Traffic Section (Tel: 01563 555579)