

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4 MAY 2004

WESTRANS DRAFT JOINT TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to:-

- (i) Advise the Committee that the WESTRANS Draft Joint Transport Strategy (JTS) is now out for consultation
- (ii) Invite Members to submit comments on the Draft JTS to the Executive Director, or to the Head of Roads & Transportation by 18 June 2004.
- (iii) Request the Committee to delegate to the Director, after consultation with the Chair, to forward East Ayrshire Council's response on the consultation document to the WESTRANS Core Team Manager.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The WESTRANS JTS will be the basis for future strategic transportation decisions concerning the West of Scotland. It will also be the framework for the constituent members' own Local Transport Strategies.
- 2.2** At its meeting on 10 March 2004, the Committee noted that the WESTRANS Draft JTS was being finalised and would be submitted to the Committee for comment.

3. THE WESTRANS JTS

- 3.1** Copies of the draft JTS will be Emailed to Members. Members will note that the draft is text only. The maps and diagrams to accompany the Draft JTS were not available in time to include in the Draft at this stage.
- 3.2** The complete Draft will be published in May, with no further textual changes. Copies of the complete Draft will be placed in the Members lounge, libraries and local offices and the Council's Website as soon as it is available. The draft is being presented to Members in its present form to afford as much time as possible for perusal and comment. If further copies of the draft JTS are required these can be obtained from the Head of Roads & Transportation.

4. THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

- 4.1 The Scottish Executive is currently considering options for the future method of planning and delivering major transport infrastructure schemes, and intend to put forward proposals later this summer.
- 4.2 In addition, Local Authorities' own Local Transport Strategies are due to be reviewed and updated by the end of 2004/early 2005.
- 4.3 Against this background it is essential that WESTRANS has a final, agreed JTS as soon as possible to ensure that the West of Scotland's strategic transportation needs are clearly expressed to the Scottish Executive from the outset.
- 4.4 To meet this timetable the Consultation period will run to the end of June. The aim is then to revise the strategy to take cognisance of the feedback and have a final document available to present to the WESTRANS Joint Committee and the Member Councils for approval by Autumn this year.
- 4.5 There will be no further opportunity to return to Committee with Member's comments on the draft within the available timescale. It is therefore proposed that the Executive Director discusses East Ayrshire Council's final response, based on Member's comments, with the Chair prior to submission to the WESTRANS Core Team Manager.
- 4.6 The WESTRANS Core Team Manager will arrange consultation with all key transportation interests in the WESTRANS area.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A Joint Transport Strategy for the WESTRANS area is part of the Government's Strategy for delivering integrated transport in Scotland.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The WESTRANS JTS and the Council's own Local Transport Strategy will inform Government decisions on the funding of future transport schemes in the West of Scotland.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Committee is requested to note that the WESTRANS Draft JTS is now out for consultation.

- 8.2** Members are invited to submit comments on the Draft JTS to the Executive Director, or to the Head of Roads & Transportation by 18 June 2004.
- 8.3** The Committee is requested to delegate to the Executive Director, after consultation with the Chair, to forward East Ayrshire Council's response on the Consultation Document to the WESTRANS Core Team Manager.

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services

19 April 2004
SG/YK

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

For further information please contact Sandy Gillatt on 01563 555734

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