

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **DEVELOPMENT & PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 3 MAY 2005**

#### **EAST AYRSHIRE'S PERFORMANCE ON CYCLING ISSUES**

##### **Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise the Committee of East Ayrshire's performance with regard to cycling issues as reported in a national assessment of local authority performance on cycling.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

On 4 April 2005 Cycling Scotland published a report on the "Assessment of Local Authority Performance on Cycling". The report is the result of an in-depth study on how all local authorities in Scotland deal with cycling in all its forms such as transport, health and education. The study involved assessment of the Council's Local Transport Strategy document, current infrastructure, initiatives and commitment etc.

A copy of Cycling Scotland's report will be placed at the Members' Information Point for reference.

#### **3. EAST AYRSHIRE'S PERFORMANCE**

East Ayrshire achieved an overall score of 16, which corresponds with the average score for all local authorities in Scotland. Across Scotland the scores ranged from 7 to 30 (out of a possible 40). However, the report is not intended to be "league table" of achievement, but "acknowledges the difference in needs of rural and urban areas, and therefore these scores are intended for use by each Local Authority to track their own progress, and not for comparison with other areas".

The report acknowledged examples of good practice in East Ayrshire, including clear policies and priorities for cycling in the Local Transport Strategy, partnership working with Sustrans and clear mapping of the proposed strategic cycle network.

The report's main recommendations for East Ayrshire include the designation of a lead officer to manage the implementation of a cycling action plan, the establishment of a multi-agency forum, the review of baselines and targets, the expansion of cycle training etc, and reporting on progress.

#### **4. FUTURE ACTIONS**

The report is encouraging for the Committee and the officers in the Traffic and Transportation Section who have strived to provide the strategy, infrastructure, training and publicity to promote cycling in East Ayrshire within current budgets.

This work is continuing. The Traffic Section has been fully stretched delivering the schemes under the Public Transport Fund budgets, following the Council's successful bids for this funding in recent years. However the Roads Division's designated cycling officer will now be able to spend more time on this, with further initiatives on the promotion of cycling on the existing infrastructure. The ring-fenced funding of £205,000 for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets in the current financial year will help to improve the infrastructure and create the conditions that will encourage cycling as an alternative mode of transport for short journeys. The Community Planning process provides the opportunity to ensure that cycling issues are recognised and promoted where appropriate by all stakeholders in East Ayrshire.

The Council's Local Transport Strategy is due to be reviewed this year and the report's recommendations will be taken into account in drawing up the Strategy for the next 5 years.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None immediately arising from this report.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**James Lavery**  
**Executive Director of Development and Property Services**  
**14 April 2005**  
SG/SH

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS – Nil**

For further information on the contents of this report please contact Sandy Gillatt on 01563 576310

**Implementing Officer: Sandy Gillatt**