

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE - 2 NOVEMBER 2005

WEST OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEMBERSHIP

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To invite the Committee to determine East Ayrshire Council's membership on the West of Scotland Regional Transport Partnership.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Scottish Executive has decided to create new statutory Regional Transport Partnerships across the whole of Scotland and each Regional Transport Partnership will be required to prepare a statutory Regional Transport Strategy for their area. The Scottish Executive expects those strategies to make the case for investment and infrastructure development within each region and to guide the activities of Councils delivering those strategies.

- 2.2** Previous reports on the Government's proposals were considered by the Development Services Committee at their meetings on 14 December 2004 (Page 1154, Item 11, 03/07) and 19 January 2005 (Page 1184, Item 4, 03/07).

3. REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS (ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTITUTION) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2005

- 3.1** The above Order provides for the division of Scotland into seven Regional Transport Partnerships. East Ayrshire Council will be a member of the West of Scotland Transport Partnership which will also consist of Argyll and Bute Council (Helensburgh and Lomond), East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Councils. The new Regional Transport Partnership consists of 12 Councils with 20 Councillor members. With the exception of Glasgow City Council which has five members and five votes and South and North Lanarkshire Councils which each have three members and three votes, all the remaining members including East Ayrshire Council have one member and one vote. The Order also makes provision for the Councils to appoint a substitute Councillor.

- 3.2** Recent correspondence has been received from the Scottish Executive confirming that the Order was laid in Parliament on or around 19 October and will allow the statutory Regional Transport Partnerships to be created in early December. It is Ministers' intention that the Regional Transport Partnerships should operate in a "shadow form" without exercising any transport functions until April 2006. This will provide time for the completion of practical arrangements such as the appointment of staff, the setting-up of offices and

the establishment of financial and operating systems and procedures. The Order places a responsibility on the Chief Executive of each of the largest Council in each Regional Transport Partnership to convene the first meeting of the Partnership.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 East Ayrshire Council requires to identify an Elected Member to serve as its representative on the Partnership and also to identify a substitute Elected Member.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No significant financial implications other than appropriate administrative allowances in respect of the appointed Member attendance at meetings of the Regional Transport Partnerships which will be in accordance with members' approved duties in terms of the agreed Members' Expenses and Allowance Scheme adopted by the Council.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposed Regional Transport Partnership (Establishment and Constitution) (Scotland) Order provides for the appointment of an Elected Member and Substitute Member from East Ayrshire Council to represent the Council.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Membership of the Regional Transport Partnership will provide for East Ayrshire Council's participation in discussions and development of strategic regional transport planning and delivery functions.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Committee is invited:-

- (i) to appoint a Member representative and substitute Member representative to the West of Scotland Regional Transport Partnership; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note this report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

25 October 2005
BW/SM

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter dated 10 October 2005 from the Scottish Executive to all Local Authority Chief Executives.
2. Draft Regional Transport Partnership (Establishment and Constitution) (Scotland) Order 2005.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on Tel No (01563) 576135. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on Tel No (01563) 576135.

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