

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 27 AUGUST 2002

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FUND BID

Report by Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee that both a Full Bid and a Preparation Pool Bid have been submitted to the Scottish Executives Public Transport Fund Bid for funding to start in 2003/04.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At its meeting on 7 May 2002, the Committee agreed to the submission of a bid for an additional capital allocation from the fifth round of the Public Transport Fund.

The improvement of public transport and pedestrian access at the following locations:-

- a) The Kilmarnock to Cumnock Corridor
- b) Cumnock Town Centre; and
- c) The Irvine Valley Communities ie. Hurlford, Galston, Newmilns and Darvel.

A bid document was submitted to the Scottish Executive on 12 August 2002, in accordance with the Executive's published timescale. The preparation of the bid document was jointly funded by Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, EAC Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership and the Department of Development Services.

- 2.2** The Committee also agreed to the submission of a bid to the "preparation pool" for funding for further technical evaluation of rail improvements.

3. FULL BID - QUALITY CORRIDORS

- 3.1** Kilmarnock to Cumnock Public Transport Corridor – Improvements to bus facilities along the A76 including enhanced bus shelters with information panels, lighting and raised kerbs at appropriate locations together with improved pedestrian facilities.
- 3.2** Irvine Valley Public Transport Corridor – Improvements to bus facilities along the A71 from Kilmarnock to Darvel in conjunction with measures to reduce the impact of congestion in urban areas on bus movements. Such measures would include the formalisation of parking and bus boarders allowing easier and quicker access to buses together with improved pedestrian facilities.

- 3.3** Cumnock Access Measures – Improvements to bus facilities in Cumnock and Logan. Enhancement to pedestrian and cycle facilities and linkages between residential areas and schools, employment centres, shopping centres and the bus station. The measures include footway and lighting improvements to improve safety and security and encourage the use of public transport.
- 3.4** The Scottish Executive should determine the bids in late October or early November. If successful there will be extensive local consultation during the planning of final designs for implementation.

4. PREPARATION POOL BID

- 4.1** A Preparation Pool Bid for enhancement to the rail service between New Cumnock and Kilmarnock has also been submitted. The bid is for a study to determine the feasibility and associated implementation options, of increasing passenger and rail freight movements on the line, including options for additional stations and rail based Park and Ride facilities.

The Preparation Pool Bid complements the Council's Full Bid for bus based measures in the A76 corridor between Kilmarnock and Cumnock which runs parallel to the rail line. Presentation of a full case for investment in rail facilities requires complex analysis of rail infrastructure and rail services, and will require the full support of SPT, Railtrack and rail operations.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1** In the course of preparing the bids, initial consultations have been undertaken with neighbouring local authorities and transport organisations. Letters of support have been received from:

Full Bid - Stagecoach, West Scotland; East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership; Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire; SPT; North Ayrshire Council; South Ayrshire Council; East Renfrewshire; Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Preparation Pool Bid - East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership; Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire; SPT; North Ayrshire Council; South Ayrshire Council; East Renfrewshire Council and Scotrail.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The total capital cost of the proposed scheme is set out in the Full Bid of £2,275,500. The bid to the Public Transport Fund is £2,173,900 with the expenditure spread over three financial years i.e. 2003-04; 2004-05 and 2005-06. The balance of the cost i.e. £101,600 for signage, footway improvements, road maintenance and lighting works will be met from future Development Services Department budgets.

7.2 The total capital cost of the proposed Presentation Pool study is estimated to be £130,000. The bid to the Public Transport Fund is £104,000 for expenditure in the 2003-04 financial year. It is proposed that the balance of the cost of the study i.e. £26,000 (20%) will be jointly funded by Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire; East Ayrshire Coalfield Social Inclusion Partnership and the Development Service Department.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes that bids for additional capital allocations have been submitted to the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund as agreed by the Committee on 7 May 2002.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

KO/YK
14 August 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. East Ayrshire Council Public Transport Fund Bid 2003/03.**
- 2. East Ayrshire Council Preparation Pool Bid 2003/04**

For further information please contact Keith Orton on 01563 555714

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AGENDA

