

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 11 APRIL 2000

CYCLING STRATEGY

Report By Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- a) update the Committee on the progress being made to provide a cycle link between Kilmarnock and the National Cycle Network at Irvine; and
- b) seek the Committees approval to use its statutory powers, if necessary, to acquire land on the line of the proposed cycle link.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The outline proposals to form a cycleway between Kilmarnock and Irvine was agreed by the Committee on 8 October 1998.

2.2 The link will provide an essential connection between the National Cycle Network and the proposed strategic cycle network for East Ayrshire; Appendix A.

2.3 The charitable cycling organisation Sustrans, has prepared a study which considers the Irvine to Kilmarnock line in more detail. It is proposed that work on the link will commence in the autumn, this year, subject to assembling a funding package and land acquisition and be completed by Spring 2001. When completed it will form a part of the National Cycle Network.

3. IRVINE TO KILMARNOCK CYCLE ROUTE

3.1 The majority of the section of the route from Springside eastward to Kilmarnock lies within East Ayrshire. Sustrans proposes that between Springside and Western Road in Kilmarnock, the cycleway will follow the alignment of the disused railway. On completion the route will provide a continuous path for pedestrians and cyclists between Irvine and Kilmarnock.

3.2 From Western Road to Kilmarnock Bus Station (where it is proposed that the cycle route will terminate for the time being) the route will utilise public roads or footpaths. The on-road sections will require appropriate warning signs and crossing facilities to provide for the safer movement at cyclists. The footpath section will be upgraded to a suitable standard, including lighting, to accommodate the passage of pedestrians and cyclists in safety. A traffic order will be required to allow cyclists to use the footpath.

4. LAND ISSUES

- 4.1** Two areas of the disused railway solum in East Ayrshire were originally acquired by the former Cunninghame District Council. East Ayrshire Council has recently acquired title to these areas of ground. Sustrans has already purchased the majority of the rest of the former railway alignment.
- 4.2** Sustrans has been pursuing the land issues for the remaining land for the off-road section. If it becomes impractical to acquire the remaining land by agreement, it is proposed that the statutory powers available to the Council should be used to enable the path to be created by Order.
- 4.3** Proposals for a network of cycle routes in Kilmarnock Town Centre are being developed as part of the Town Centre Action Plan. The Kilmarnock to Irvine link will form an essential connection to the National Cycle Network and is an integral part of the network of cycle routes throughout East Ayrshire as detailed in the East Ayrshire Cycle Network Report, 1998.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The budget cost of the project is £460,000 including design, supervision and an allowance for contingencies, but excluding VAT. The Council will commit £30,000 towards the on-road link and cycle lockers in Kilmarnock Bus Station, which was included in the successful Public Transport Fund Bid for 2000/2001. The Roads Division will also provide staff resources for design and supervision.
- 5.2** Discussions are on going with officials of Sustrans, and other outside agencies with a view to securing the remaining funding for the project.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 empowers the Council to create a public path by Order, if it is impractical to create such a path by agreement.
- 6.2** Under the terms of the Act, the Council would be responsible for future maintenance of a public path formed by agreement or Order. If the Council has to use its power to form the path, it is proposed that an associated agreement will be sought with Sustrans for the cycling organisation to assume responsibility for future maintenance of the rural section between Springside and Western Road.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- a) notes progress on proposals for the Irvine to Kilmarnock cycle path and;
- b) agrees to the use of the statutory powers available to the Council to construct the path by Order, if it proves impractical to form the path by agreement.

- c) agree that the Director of Development Services in liaison with the Solicitor to the Council shall negotiate an agreement with SUSTRANS for the future maintenance of the path, as necessary.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

KO/YK
25 February 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

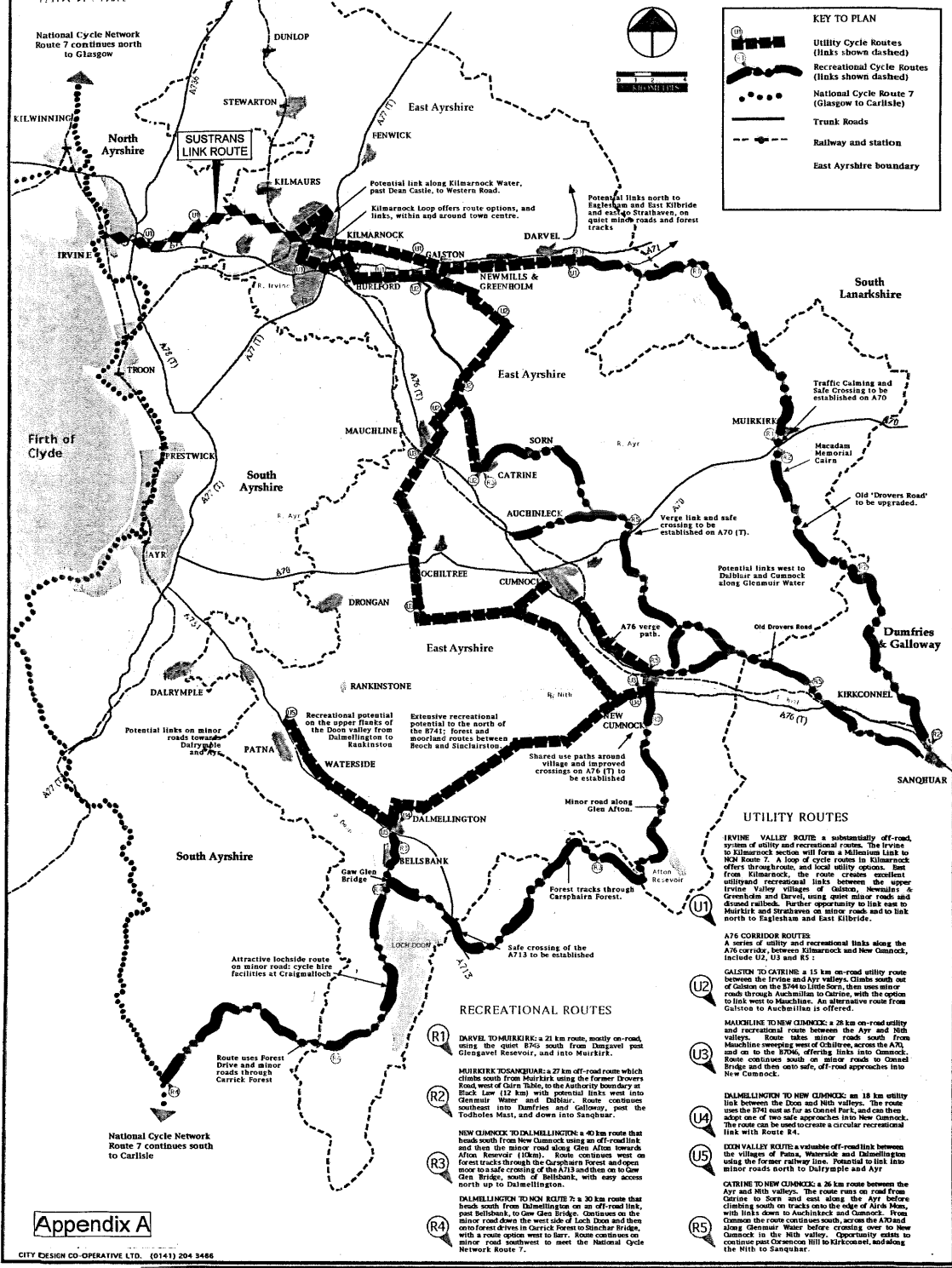
- 1. Report by SUSTRANS : Irvine to Kilmarnock Cycle Path**

For further information please contact Keith Orton on 01563 576310

East Ayrshire Cycle Network Plan



THIS SCHEMATIC PLAN SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EAST AYRSHIRE CYCLE NETWORK STUDY PRODUCED BY CITY DESIGN CO-OPERATIVE LTD ON BEHALF OF SUSTRANS (SCOTLAND) FOR EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL AND ENTERPRISE AYRSHIRE. JUNE 1998.



Appendix A

CITY DESIGN CO-OPERATIVE LTD. (0141) 204 3466

AGENDA