

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 24 APRIL 2001**

#### **CAR PARKS AND BUS STATION MANAGEMENT**

##### **Report by Director of Development Services**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to seek the agreement of the Committee to the enhancement of management and supervision arrangements for the Council's surface car parks, bus stations and bus shelters.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The Committee has approved a number of initiatives, which together form the basis of the strategy to modernise public parking in Kilmarnock Town Centre. The key Committee decisions were:

- (a) 6 March 1997 – approved the introduction of short stay parking in the central car parks and extended charges to three additional car parks;
- (b) 29 September 1999 – agreed a draft strategy for on-street parking as a basis for consultations; and
- (c) 19 December 2000 – agreed to the introduction of charges in the East George Street car park (the title to the car park has now been changed back to East Ayrshire Council, and charges will be introduced before the end of April 2001).

The primary objective of the parking strategy is to increase the supply of short-term parking to meet shopping and business needs and thereby sustain economic activity in the town centre.

- 2.2** The development of the parking strategy is being dealt with by the Traffic, Safety and Transportation Section within the Roads Division and day-to-day enforcement is provided by the Roads Contracts Section.
- 2.3** In 1999 the Council successfully bid for an additional capital allocation from the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund for the upgrading of the Kilmarnock and Cumnock Bus Stations. The project was developed in partnership with Strathclyde Passenger Transport and Stagecoach. An important aim was to provide well managed, high quality facilities in both Kilmarnock and Cumnock as a means of encouraging more use of public transport, tackling social inclusion and reducing car dependency.
- 2.4** At the meeting of 15 February 2000, the Development Services Committee, as part of a consortium contract issued by Glasgow City Council, accepted an offer from JC Decaux for the replacement of 37 advertising bus shelters within the Council area. JC Decaux will pay income to the Council for each site and will be

responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of each shelter. The Council also own 211 non-advertising bus shelters, the cleaning and maintenance of which is organised through Strathclyde Passenger Transport. The provision and maintenance of bus service infrastructure is an important part of the overall policy to promote the use of public transport.

### **3 PROPOSED ENHANCED LEVELS OF SERVICE**

- 3.1 Parking:** The Roads Division has introduced new technology to aid the enforcement of the off-street car parks (the enforcement of on-street car parking remains the responsibility of Strathclyde Police). Nonetheless the additional workload involved in supervising enforcement and maintenance of the car parks, including the multi-storey, and monitoring usage.
- 3.2 Bus Stations:** The project to upgrade the Kilmarnock and Cumnock Bus Stations will be completed by the end of April 2001.
- 3.3** It had been hoped that Strathclyde Passenger Transport would take over operational management of the facilities. But following extended discussions with SPT and Stagecoach, SPT concluded that they were unable to undertake this responsibility. As a result an integrated management and supervision arrangement requires to be established by the Council to ensure that high standards of cleaning, maintenance, security and passenger services are maintained.
- 3.4 Bus Shelters:** With the replacement of the previous contract for advertising bus shelters by the new contract with JC Decaux the opportunity has arisen to review and improve the supervision. It is proposed to terminate the current maintenance agreement with SPT. In-house staff will in future arrange for cleaning, maintenance, repair and security supervision of bus shelters.

### **4 MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING PROPOSALS**

- 4.1** It is proposed to assign these new duties to a senior member within the Roads Division.
- 4.2** To assist this officer it is proposed also that they should become core duties of a new Technical Officer post.
- 4.3** It is further proposed to extend the duties of appropriate street inspectors to supplement and upgrade the inspection of the bus station, car parks and bus shelters.

### **5 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** The proposals will involve the creation of one new post and an adjustment in the duties and grading of another post. The details of this will be the subject of reports to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee as required following consultation on the details of the staffing proposals with the Head of Personnel and the trade unions.

5.2 An interim arrangement to ensure that basic servicing of the bus stations is maintained to a high standard has been put in place.

## 6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications.

## 7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The cost of the improved management of the facilities will be met from existing budgets including the budget for the current contractual arrangement with SPT for maintenance of bus shelters. The new post proposed will replace one of the posts which it is proposed to delete to reflect the loss of trunk roads work.

## 8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree the enhanced management proposals for the bus stations, surface car parks and bus shelters.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**  
**19 April 2001**  
**SC/JR**

### LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 **Kilmarnock Town Centre Car Parking, Development Services Committee, 6 March 1997.**
- 2 **On-Street Parking Kilmarnock Town Centre, Development Services Committee, 29 September 1999**
- 3 **Kilmarnock Town Centre Off-Street Parking Amendment Order, Development Services Committee, 19 December 2000**
- 4 **Bus Shelter Advertising Contract, Development Services Committee, 15 February 2001**

For further information on the contents of this report contact Jim Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation, on 10563 576310

**Implementation Officer: Jim Kane**

**AGENDA**