

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 AUGUST 2001

TRUNK ROAD CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

Report By Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To update the Committee on the actions taken by the Head of Roads & Transportation to inform the Scottish Executive and Messrs Amey Highways of the concerns being expressed by elected members and the public at large on the contractor's poor performance to date in relation to the Trunk Road Maintenance Contracts.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** On 2 February 2001 the Scottish Executive appointed Amey Highways to undertake the management and maintenance of the South West Area Trunk Roads for a period of five years from 1 April 2001.
- 2.2** All maintenance work and emergency incidents on the A77 Stranraer-Glasgow Trunk Road and the A76 Dumfries- Kilmarnock Trunk Road within the East Ayrshire Council area will now be undertaken by Amey Highways with no input from East Ayrshire Council Roads & Transportation Division.
- 2.3** Discussions have been held with Amey Highways and the Scottish Executive to determine the limits of responsibility for maintenance (both routine and winter) and street lighting maintenance on these roads. This will avoid confusion over which parts of the road network are the responsibility of Amey Highways.
- 2.4** Agreements have been confirmed for routine and winter maintenance but discussions are still ongoing on methods for dealing with shared control pillars for street lighting.
- 2.5** Amey Highways have also been invited to attend the monthly East Ayrshire Council Roads/Police Liaison Group at which communal matters of concern are discussed.
- 2.6** Concern has been expressed by elected members and members of the public on the poor standard of maintenance undertaken to date by Amey Highways.

3. ACTION BY HEAD OF ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

- 3.1** The following complaints by elected members have been received by the Head of Roads and Transportation on Amey's performance to date on the Trunk Road Maintenance Contract:-

- a) Grass on roadside verges and on roundabouts being allowed to grow out of control causing sightline problems at junctions. (5 Complaints)
- b) Poor standard of grass cutting. (4 Complaints)
- c) Dangerous working practices. (2 Complaints)
- d) Damaged signs and bollards not being replaced timeously. (3 Complaints)
- e) Lack of maintenance on landscape works. (1 Complaint)
- f) Lack of repairs to Trunk Road boundary fences (1 Complaint)
- g) Lack of response to damaged lighting columns (1 Complaint)

3.2 The Head of Roads & Transportation has written on nine occasions to Amey Highways and the Chief Road Engineer at the Scottish Executive expressing his dissatisfaction with Amey's performance to date, passing on the above complaints and warning of the possible effect on Road Safety.

3.3 Any further instances of poor practice detected by Roads staff as they travel on the trunk roads or reported by elected members will continue to be forwarded to Amey Highways and the Scottish Executive for action.

3 SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ACTION

3.3 As a result of the poor performance on the Trunk Road Maintenance Contracts the Scottish Executive on 7th August 2001, served default notices on the two companies undertaking these contracts, Amey Highways and Bear.

4.2 A default notice is issued when the specification for the maintenance work has not been met. This notice compels the contractor to meet the specification or pay compensation to the Scottish Executive.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Trunk Road Maintenance now responsibility of Amey Highways.

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no policy implications.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.3 It is recommended that the Committee agree to:

- (a) note the actions taken by the Head of Roads & Transportation in relation to complaints received from Elected Members;
- (b) note the action taken by the Scottish Executive;
- (c) request the Head of Roads & Transportation to continue to advise the Scottish Executive of reported faults and safety concerns; and
- (d) make representations to the Minister and CoSLA outlining the extent of dissatisfaction with the performance of Amey Highways.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services
JTK/YK
20 August 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Appendix 1 – Letters to Amey Highways and Scottish Executive
2. Appendix 2 – Replies from Amey Highways and Scottish Executive

For further information please contact Jim Kane on 01563 576310

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AGENDA