

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 13 MARCH 2002

EXTRA MAINTENANCE FUNDING

Report By Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform the Committee of an additional allocation of funding by the Scottish Executive for repairs and maintenance on local roads and bridges in the Council area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** On 25 February 2002 the Deputy Minister for Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning, Lewis Macdonald announced an extra £20million for local authorities to tackle urgent road and bridge repairs including streetlighting.

3. COUNCIL ALLOCATION

- 3.1** East Ayrshire Council has been awarded £414,000 from this allocation.
- 3.2** The distribution of the £20 million between local authorities was calculated using the standard distribution for roads maintenance funding within local authorities block revenue allocation.
- 3.3** The award is revenue funding and will enable the Council to tackle local roads maintenance priorities over the next seven months. It has been made clear that the new funds should be spent on the priorities identified by the Minister – the Council will be required to report back to the Scottish Executive on its use of the funds.
- 3.4** Following the Selby rail accident last year guidelines have been drawn up for risk assessments in locations where there is a possibility of vehicles leaving the road and causing a railway hazard. It is expected that a protocol for joint implementation of risk assessments by Railtrack and roads authorities will be published in the near future. The Minister has made it clear that he would expect some of the additional funds to be spent on this work.
- 3.5** It is recommended that at this stage £300,000 of the additional funds are committed to permanent patching work throughout the Council area. Priority will be given to heavily damaged areas on well used carriageways. An assessment is currently being carried out of new methods of carrying out small area surface reconditioning. It is considered that this approach will provide the best value for a short term one-off programme; it will enable the Division to tackle sections of

road which are affected by frequent potholing and edge cracking without more expensive full re-surfacing or re-construction.

- 3.6** A further report will be submitted to Committee recommending priorities for the remaining funds once the protocol for rail/road risk assessments has been published.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The £414,000 revenue allocation is additional to current budgets.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** The Committee is asked to:

- a) agree that £300,000 of the additional funds should be allocated to permanent patching of heavily damaged and well used carriageways; and
- b) note that a further report on priorities for the remaining funds will be submitted to the Committee once a protocol for carrying out rail/road risk assessments has been published.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

26 February 2002
JTK/YK

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on the contents of this report please contact Jim Kane, Head of Roads & Transportation on 01563 576310.

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AGENDA