

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 13 MARCH 2002

FACILITIES AT PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Report By Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To update the Committee on a review of facilities for the disabled at pedestrian crossing points within Kilmarnock town centre and recommend a commitment to a programme of continuous upgrading of crossing points throughout East Ayrshire

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** When the Council carries out reconstruction of pavements through its routine maintenance programme or specific road safety improvement measures at junctions it routinely introduces drop-kerb crossings or other appropriate facilities for people with a disability. At its meeting of 13 February 2001 the Development Services Committee requested a survey to be carried out on crossings within Kilmarnock Central Area which do not currently have facilities for people with a disability. Requests have also been made for an increasing number of dropped kerbs in residential areas to facilitate users of wheelchairs, particularly self-powered electric wheelchairs, and for special facilities to assist people with a visual impairment.

3. SURVEY OF CROSSING POINTS WITHIN KILMARNOCK TOWN CENTRE

- 3.1** A recent survey of pedestrian crossing points within Kilmarnock town centre core area and main approach roads identified some 32 locations, which would benefit from improvement works. With the recent successful allocation from the Public Transport Fund bid providing improved pedestrian access measures across the town centre, ten of the sub-standard crossings will be upgraded as part of these works. Twenty two would require to be funded from Council programmes. Requests are also received from other communities within East Ayrshire for this amenity. The number of crossings required to meet such requests is substantial.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1** The cost to improve the remaining twenty-two locations within Kilmarnock town centre is approximately £8000. A programme of least twice this scale would be required to meet all requests for facilities for people with a disability at controlled crossings throughout East Ayrshire as they arise. Further funds will be required

to meet requests for dropped kerbs and facilities for people with a visual impairment at non-controlled crossings.

4.2 Given the level of potential demand and competing priorities for road safety and essential maintenance works it is recommended consideration should be given to setting aside £10,000 per annum from the capital programme (road safety) for the installation of crossings.

4.3 Demands should be met on the basis of the following priorities:

- level of general pedestrian usage
- physical suitability of the crossing point
- specific issues of access to shops or similar destination sites

If the Committee approves the allocation of £10,000 per annum for the installation of facilities for people with a disability at crossings, it is suggested that the programme of providing facilities at controlled crossings in Kilmarnock should be spread over a period of two years to leave funds available for other crossing facilities meeting the above priorities.

5. DESIGN OF WHEELCHAIRS

5.1 A number of recent requests have been made to make it possible for users of self-propelled electric wheelchairs to negotiate crossings. Such equipment has become more common. It is proposed that the need to assess the physical characteristics of the area in which such wheelchairs are to be used should be drawn to the attention of the relevant authorities for consideration in specifying the type of wheelchair considered suitable.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 A proportion of the work will be met from the Public Transport Fund with the remainder being funded from the capital programme.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee –

- (a) Note that ten sub-standard drop crossings will be upgraded within the Public Transport Fund improvements.

- (b) agree to allocate £10,000 per annum from the Council's Capital Programme allocation for Road Safety Measures to provide improved crossing facilities for people with a disability based on the priorities set out in para 4.3 of the report.

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Director of Development Services

25 February 2002
BW/YK

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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AGENDA