

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17 DECEMBER 2002

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FUND BID 2002-2004

Report by Director of Development Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of the outcome of this year's application by East Ayrshire Council to the fifth and final round of the Scottish Executives Public Transport Fund

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 7 May 2002, the Committee agreed to the preparation of a bid for an allocation from the Public Transport Fund. In accordance with the Scottish Executive's Guidance, which permits each local authority to submit one Full Bid, for the implementation of works and one Preparation Pool Bid, to carry out studies which may be used as the basis for future bids, East Ayrshire Council submitted:-

2.1.1 Full Bid

- Quality Bus Corridor improvements in the A71 Irvine Valley Corridor between Kilmarnock and Darvel;
- Quality Bus Corridor improvements in the A76 corridor between Kilmarnock and Cumnock; and
- Access measures in Cumnock to improve bus facilities and enhance pedestrian and cycle linkages in the town.

2.1.2 Preparation Pool Bid

- A study to assess the feasibility and associated implementation options for rail improvements to enhance the service between New Cumnock and Kilmarnock.

- 2.2 The funding sought for the Full Bid was £2,173,000 spread over three financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. The funding sought for the Preparation Pool Bid was £104,000 in the 2003-04 financial year.

- 2.3 North Ayrshire Council also submitted a Full Bid to the Public Transport Fund for an allocation to implement Quality Bus Corridor measures in the Irvine Valley Corridor between Ardrossan and Kilmarnock. The package includes measures to improve bus facilities in Crosshouse and on the western approach to Kilmarnock. These improvements will tie in with the

Kilmarnock Town Centre Action Plan (PTF 4) and the proposed Quality Bus Corridor improvements between Kilmarnock and Darvel (PTF 5)

3 OUTCOME OF THE BID

3.1 The Minister for Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning set out his decision on the bid in his letter of 14 November, 2002 to Provost Boyd.

3.2 The letter confirmed that the sum of £2,100,000 would be made available from the Public Transport Fund to enable the Council to implement the measures contained in the Full Bid, as set out in 2.1.1 above. The funding allocated to the Council is as follows:-

2003-2004	£300,000
2003-2005	£700,000
2003-2006	£1,100,000

3.3 The Council's Preparation Pool bid was unsuccessful. The Minister indicated in his letter that given the weight of competing bids, it was felt that the study should not be awarded funding at this time.

3.4 The Council's applications were two of forty bids received by the Scottish Executive from authorities throughout Scotland. Twenty three of the bids received financial support.

3.5 The preliminary design of the projects which received funding will commence shortly. Because of the heavy workload in the Traffic, Safety and Transportation Section and limited staff resources, it is proposed to commission specialist consultants to carry out this work. Local consultations will be carried out as an integral part of preparing the designs prior to implementation.

3.6 It is understood that North Ayrshire Council was also successful in its bid for Quality Bus Corridor measures between Ardrossan and Kilmarnock. An early meeting will be sought with Officers of North Ayrshire Council to progress the measures insofar as they affect East Ayrshire.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The settlement from the Public Transport Fund for 2003-2006 will be issued in the form of capital grant under Section 70 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee welcome the capital grant from the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund to assist with the implementation of Quality Bus Corridor measures and Access Measures in Cumnock as set out above.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

KO/TA/YK
9 December 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Keith Orton on 01563 555714.

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