

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 12 MARCH 2003

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/2004

Report by Director of Development Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend a capital programme for 2003/2004 for expenditure within the Committee's capital allocation.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting of 31 January 2003 the Policy & Resources committee agreed an allocation of £1,525,000 for 2003/2004 for the Development Services Committee from the Council's general capital programme. This report proposes how this should be distributed between the services of the Committee.

3 PROPOSED PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The following programme is proposed:

	2003/2004 £000
Streetlighting	185
Road safety	110
Roads operations	100
Bridges and structures	110
Footways and carriageways	600
Flood prevention	70
Business loans and development particulars	330
IT systems	20
	1525

- 3.2 **Streetlighting:** The streetlighting allocation will be used to tackle high priority schemes reported to the Committee on 22 October 2002 and schemes where the Council requires to replace streetlights following undergrounding of overhead supply cables by Scottish Power. Schemes currently programmed within these priorities are replacement lighting in New Cumnock following undergrounding of cables by Scottish Power and continuation of the programme to replace worn out columns in the Glebe area of Kilmarnock.

- 3.3 **Road Safety:** Road safety improvements are being carried out through schemes funded through the Public Transport Fund, Safer Routes to School and Quality of Life programmes. In line with previous reports approved by the

Committee it is proposed to allocate the core funding available to the following projects:

- Agreed Council commitment to the Public Transport Fund Programmes for Kilmarnock (£35,000)
- Reduction of speed limit on the A70 at Smallburn, Muirkirk through traffic calming (£50,000). This is the highest ranking individual scheme remaining in the prioritised list of safety schemes approved in June 2000
- Continued programme to improve crossing facilities for people with a disability (£10,000)

Preparatory work will take up the remaining funding.

- 3.4** A separate report to the Committee recommends that the Committee starts a programme of route action plans on 'A' roads between communities funded initially through 'Quality of Life' funds.
- 3.5** The Committee may require to consider in due course funding for a major project to install a central barrier on the A71. A further report will be brought to the Committee on this issue once the possibility of additional Scottish executive funding has been fully explored.
- 3.6 Roads Operations:** It is proposed to allocate £30,000 to continued investment in upgrading car parks including the multi-storey car park. £70,000 will be invested in priority work in the depots, in particular the Crookedholm Transport Depot to provide a base for the new streetlighting maintenance depot.
- 3.7 Bridges and Structures:** During the course of the current year one programmed bridge reconstruction project has been carried out (Gunshell Burn). A further three reconstruction projects have been carried out at a total cost of £85,000 on collapsed culverts. It is proposed to undertake river bank protection works at Mure Place footbridge in 2003/2004 (cost £40,000) as previously agreed by the Committee and that the remaining allocation for bridges and structures should be reserved for responding to emergency reconstruction and strengthening work and design studies on essential major projects to be brought forward in future years.
- 3.8** There is a continuing commitment to reconstruction of Welltrees Bridge on the A70. This is one of the 6 structures being monitored. Under an agreement with Scottish Coal they will undertake structural work and the Council will construct the new road surface. Engineering problems have delayed this project. It is now likely that the structural work could be carried out over the next year, and that the Committee may require to make provision for the carriageway construction in 2004/2005.

- 3.9 Footways and Carriageways:** The programme for major maintenance of footways and carriageways funded from both revenue and capital budgets has been the subject of a previous Committee report.
- 3.10 Flood Prevention:** Progress in carrying out assessment of flood prevention measures at a number of locations affected in recent years by flooding from watercourses has been reported to the Committee. Preparatory work, as reported elsewhere on the Committee's agenda, has begun on a major flood prevention scheme for Galston. It is proposed to cover the full cost of preparation of this scheme from the capital allocation for flooding. Depending on the cost of this project consideration will be given to moving to the next stage in developing a flood prevention scheme for Cumnock. The capital programme will also be used to continue to carry out localised improvements work on river embankments and culverted watercourses in response to flooding events.
- 3.11 Development:** The funding proposed for business loans and development partnerships will require to cover commitments to repayment of the Kilmarnock Town Centre covenant (£150,000), a further contribution to the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative (£15,000) and a contribution to the forestry programme implementation by East Ayrshire Woodlands (£20,000). The Committee has previously agreed to contribute £10,000 towards the partnership being formed to develop the Moorfield Business Park. The remainder of the allocation will be subject to approval on an individual project basis during the year.
- 3.12 IT:** the allocation proposed for IT investment will enable the department to continue its planning administration and roads maintenance information systems.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The recommended programme is consistent with the capital allocations approved by the Policy and Resources Committee.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** There are no immediate legal implications from the recommendations contained in this report.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Committee approve the capital allocations set out in paragraph 2.1 above and the specific allocations proposed in Section 3 of the report.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

27 February 2003
SC/JR

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on the contents of this report, please contact Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services, on 01563 576011

Implementation Officer: Stephen Chorley