

# **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2003**

### **ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ROADS MAINTENANCE**

#### **Report by the Director of Development Services**

#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of additional funding which has become available to the Committee for its roads maintenance and related programmes.

#### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council has been allocated an additional £310,000 from the Scottish Executive for expenditure on road maintenance. A similar allocation of additional funding was made last year. On that occasion the Scottish Executive indicated that it would expect the Council to spend the funds on urgent road repairs including streetlighting, and strengthening work on bridges and other structures required to reduce the potential for road accidents involving railway systems. The concern with railway hazards followed the accident near Selby two years ago. The Scottish Executive has indicated that this should continue to be considered a priority for the additional funding.
- 2.2 Separately the Council has been notified that £480,000 is to be repaid from the funds of the consortium established to deliver the trunk road maintenance contract from 1996 through to 2001. During the period of the contract each consortium member was required to make payments to a contingency fund to cover any liabilities outstanding following completion of the contract. There have also been extended negotiations over final payment settlements between the Scottish Executive and the consortium. These negotiations have now been completed and the consortium is in a position to release the reserve funds. The payment now due to be made to the Council is in effect deferred income which was due to be paid in earlier years. All expenditures related to this income have, however, been covered in previous years' budgets – there are no outstanding liabilities to be set against the deferred income. It is, therefore, available for expenditure by the Committee in this and future years.

#### **3 PROPOSALS FOR USE OF THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS**

- 3.1 A programme of assessments have been largely completed in conjunction with Railtrack of relevant structures in accordance with priorities drawn up between Railtrack and the national authorities. There are no structures in East Ayrshire which have been identified as high risk and requiring immediate safety work. Some minor work will be incorporated into routine programmes. It is not, accordingly, proposed to earmark any specific sum for this work from the additional funds available.

- 3.2** It is recommended that the additional funds from the Scottish Executive are allocated to permanent patching and more extensive reconstruction of heavily damaged and well-used carriageways, as in the previous year.
- 3.3** It is also proposed that the funds repaid from the trunk road maintenance consortium are applied to:
- A further increase in large scale patching and major maintenance of carriageways
  - Bridge assessments work
  - Survey of carriageway skid resistance to complement information from national roads condition survey to assist in targeting maintenance programmes
  - Investment in additional equipment and systems which will improve the cost effectiveness and quality of winter maintenance services

## **4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

## **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** The additional funds from the Scottish Executive require to be spent in the current financial year. The funds returned from the trunk road contract may be spent during the course of the current year and future years.

## **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Committee:
- (a) note the receipt of additional funds for roads maintenance from the Scottish Executive;
  - (b) note the repayment of funds from the trunk road contract in operation up until April 2001; and
  - (c) agree that these additional funds should be allocated to projects in accordance with the priorities set out at paragraph 3.2 and 3.3 above

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**  
9 May 2003  
SC/JR

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS** **Nil**

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