

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2003

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FUND: KILMARNOCK TO ARDROSSAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

Report by the Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise the Committee that the Scottish Executive has provided funding for public transport improvements in the Kilmarnock to Ardrossan corridor and to appoint a specialist transportation consultant to carry out preliminary design and consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At its meeting of 17 December 2002, the Committee noted that, following a successful application to Round 5 of the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund in August 2002, the Council had been awarded a capital grant of £2,100,000. The funding is allocated over the three year period 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 and will be used for the following:

- 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.

- 2.2** The Committee was also advised that North Ayrshire Council had also submitted a successful bid for a quality public transport corridor between Ardrossan and Kilmarnock. The importance of a 'whole route' approach was paramount and accordingly the East Ayrshire section of the route through Crosshouse and the western approach to Kilmarnock was included within North Ayrshire's bid.

3. KILMARNOCK WESTERN CORRIDOR (B7081) PUBLIC TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS

- 3.1** The measures will include improvements to bus stop facilities including raised kerbs, improved information, improved lighting, and new bus shelters. Measures to improve pedestrian access to public transport facilities will be carried out in Crosshouse and on Irvine Road and Portland Road in Kilmarnock. It is also proposed to widen the carriageway at the Munro Avenue/Irvine Road junction in Kilmarnock to ease congestion and reduce delays for buses.

- 3.2** The improvements will complement the measures between Kilmarnock and Darvel and the ongoing improvements which are underway as part of the Kilmarnock Town Centre Action Plan (PTF4).

4. PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND CONSULTATION – CONSULTANCY SUPPORT

- 4.1** Following a competitive tender process, the Council appointed the specialist transportation consultant Faber Maunsell to undertake the preliminary design and consultation for the A71 Kilmarnock-Darvel and A76 Kilmarnock-Cumnock quality transport corridors. Initial public consultations are due to commence in early June.
- 4.2** Following competitive tendering, Faber Maunsell were appointed to prepare the initial bid documentation and feasibility studies for both the East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire bids PTF (5) submissions. They are also undertaking the Preliminary Design and Consultation for the Kilmarnock Town Pedestrian Safety and Access measures
- 4.3** The Council now requires to progress the preliminary designs and consultation for that part of the Kilmarnock - Ardrossan corridor within East Ayrshire i.e. Crosshouse and Irvine Road & Portland Road in Kilmarnock.
- 4.4** A quotation has been submitted by Faber Maunsell for £10,928 for the Kilmarnock Western Corridor. This is equivalent to 2.6% of the overall budget for the scheme in East Ayrshire i.e. £427,728. This is slightly higher than the cost of the A71/A76 study which is equivalent to 2.4% of the cost of the project, i.e. £2.1m. Nonetheless, it is proposed to appoint Faber Maunsell because:-
- (a) They are familiar with the Kilmarnock Western Corridor and Kilmarnock Town Centre from earlier studies;
 - (b) Work on the Kilmarnock Western Corridor will be co-ordinated with that on the A71/A76 to ensure a uniform approach is taken on the key transportation corridors in East Ayrshire; and
 - (c) The appointment of Faber Maunsell will allow the work to progress immediately and be completed at the same time as the work on the A71/A76 project ie December 2003.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** NIL

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The Scottish Executive has confirmed that the sum of £427,728 will be made available from the Public Transport Fund to implement public transport improvements and pedestrian access measures in the B7081 Kilmarnock Western Corridor. The funding has been included in the PTF settlement to North Ayrshire Council for the 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 financial years. The financial arrangements and expenditure programme will be determined in consultation with officials of North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Executive.

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

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) Welcomes 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 the Kilmarnock West Corridor;
- (b) Agrees to the appointment of the transportation planning consultant Faber Maunsell to carry out the preliminary design and consultations on the route; and
- (c) Remits to the Director of Development Services to agree the financial arrangements and expenditure programme with North Ayrshire Council.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

KO/YK
12/5/03

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Public Transport Fund Bid, Development Services Committee, 27 August 2002**
- 2. Public Transport Fund Bid 2002-2004, Development Services Committee, 17 December 2002**

For further information please contact Keith Orton on 01563 555714

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