

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2003

### ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION DIVISION - ADDITIONAL STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

#### Report by the Director of Development Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek the Committee's approval to increase the staffing structure of the Roads and Transportation Division to undertake project design and preparation work essential to deliver programme commitments.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council is currently undertaking a number of major projects in Kilmarnock to improve road safety, enhance public transport facilities, and promote economic regeneration. A further £2.1m has been secured from the Public Transport Fund for quality bus infrastructure facilities and pedestrian access measures in Cumnock and along the A71 and A76 corridors.
- 2.2 The schemes are being funded from the Council's core Road Safety budget, and Scottish Executive funding through the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund, the Cycling Walking and Safer Streets Fund (CWSS), and the Public Transport Fund (PTF).

The total level of committed expenditure from these budgets over the next 3 financial years is:

2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
<b>£2.04m</b>	<b>£1.3m</b>	<b>£1.2m</b>

- 2.3 In addition to these funds, the Council has recently received over **£1m** from the Scottish Executive's funding for Areas of Economic Disadvantage for the "Top of the Town" development. This includes improvements to the road network to facilitate retail, residential and office development adjacent to the town's bus and rail stations.
- 2.4 The Council must now deliver these schemes in addition to the services currently provided.

#### 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The success in attracting the additional funding has considerably increased the workload in the Traffic, Transportation and Road Safety Section –

particularly in the areas of consultation, preliminary design, and final design and project supervision.

Increasingly, staff are having to be diverted from the core work of the Section – e.g. investigating and resolving local safety issues, promoting Traffic Orders for new speed limits and waiting restrictions, accident investigation and prevention, etc. Other Sections within the Roads Division are also being disrupted as staff are drafted in to the Traffic and Transportation Section help meet crucial targets for the projects. Contracts have also been awarded to Consultants to do work, some of which could be done more effectively in-house.

- 3.2** To address these problems, and ensure that The Council can deliver the projects within the committed funding timescale, it is proposed to employ two additional officers to work on the PTF and CWSS schemes, and one additional officer to undertake the Top of the Town road improvement schemes.

#### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** Nil.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** The proposed posts would be funded from the Development Services Department's Staffing budget. The fee income from the additional funds will be used to cover the extra costs.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** The Committee is requested to:
- (a) approve in principle the recruitment of three additional members of staff in the Traffic and Transportation section; and
  - (b) to note that a report detailing the proposed additional establishment will be submitted to the Corporate Governance Committee.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**  
SG/KM  
12/5/03

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil**

For further information on the contents of this report contact Jim Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation. Telephone 01563 576310.

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