

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 21 OCTOBER 2003

**BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT 20 mph SPEED LIMITS FOR SCHOOL AREAS AND
CYCLING WALKING AND SAFER STREETS.**

Report by the Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- (a) Advise the Committee that the Transport Minister recently announced additional allocations of funds for:
 - 20 mph speed limits for school areas; and
 - Additional funding for cycling, walking and safer streets projects.
- (b) Seek the Committee's agreements for projects to be implemented during the current financial year with funding for the new budget for 20 mph speed limits.

2. BACKGROUND

2.2 Since 2000 The Scottish Executive has allocated East Ayrshire Council £489,000 for the implementation of Safer Routes to School Schemes and Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) measures. The funding has enabled the Council to introduce a variety of projects for cyclists and pedestrians including:-

- Cycle facilities and footpaths,
- pedestrian and cyclist crossings; and
- speed reduction measures and other safety measures on routes to school

At the meetings of the Committee on 18th December, 2001 and 26th August, 2003, it was agreed that the earlier CWSS allocations would be used to carry out road safety improvements in the vicinity of schools which had been identified in the course of in-depth Safer Routes to School Surveys. The programme of Safer Routes to School Surveys was agreed at the meeting of the Committee on 26th September 2000 and 22 October 2002.

- 2.3** The Committee has also agreed to allocate funds from the quality of Life Programme to the introduction of 20mph zones in the vicinity of schools and in a number of residential and other areas. This next phase of this programme was also approved by the Committee at its meeting on 26 August.

3. NEW BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

- 3.1 Cycling Walking and Safer Streets.** On 11 September, 2003, The Transport Minister announced additional funding for to all Scottish Local Authorities for measures to provide walking, cycling and safer routes to school. The allocations to East Ayrshire are:-

2004/2005 - £195,000

2005/2006 - £205,000

It is intended that the new CWSS funding will be used to provide further improvements to benefit local communities and make it easier for children and local people to walk and cycle as an enjoyable and healthy way to travel.

- 3.2 20 mph Speed Limits for school areas.** On 26 September, the Transport Minister announced new funding for all Scottish Local Authorities to promote 20 mph speed limits around school areas and other road safety projects to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. The Council is to receive funding over three years:-

2003/2004 - £117,000

2004/2005 - £257,000

2005/2006 - £257,000

Twenty mph speed limits can play an important role in protecting vulnerable road users. By improving safety around schools and residential areas it is hoped to encourage more people to walk and cycle. The introduction of the lower speed limits will also help to meet the government targets to half the number of children killed and seriously injured by 2010 and reduce the numbers of all fatalities and serious injuries by 40%.

3. FUTURE WORKS PROGRAMME

- 3.1** It is proposed to review the traffic calming and Twenty's Plenty schemes that have been provided near schools and elsewhere in communities, prior to developing further programmes. In consultation with the police, it is also intended to consider the promotion of mandatory 20 mph limits in suitable areas which have already been traffic calmed and at other locations where such a limit is likely to be self enforcing because of the layout of the roadway. Particular consideration will be given to the suitability of setting part-time mandatory 20 mph speed limits outside schools, operating at times when children are going to and from school. The review of the measures introduced to date and proposals

for future Cycling Walking and Safer Streets and 20 mph speed limits programmes, will be the subject of a further report.

- 3.2** Because of the short time available to design and implement projects before April 2004, it is proposed that the 20 mph speed limit budget allocation for 2003/2004 will be used to accelerate schemes for traffic calming at Bellfield Primary School and Darvel Primary School which were agreed at the meeting of the Committee on 26 August, 2003, but which could not be progressed at that time because funding was not available. The estimated cost of the two schemes is £105,000.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Before a 20 mph speed limit can be introduced it is necessary to promote a legally enforceable Order, in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and the Local Authorities Traffic Order (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999.
- 4.2** The Statutory process for promoting a Speed Limit Order includes extensive consultation and a period of advertisement during which the public has the right to make objections. The timescale for a straight forward order is generally approximately 9 months. However, this time can be significantly increased if there are objections from the public.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The specific proposals recommended at para 3.2 above will be funded from the additional allocations.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (a) Welcomes the additional funding announced by the Transport Minister for future Cycling Walking and Safer Streets Schemes and the introduction of 20 mph speed limits;
 - (b) Notes that a review of the existing safety measures in the vicinity of schools and proposals for future works programmes for CWSS and 20 mph speed limits will be the subject of a further report; and
 - (c) Agrees that speed reduction measures at Bellfield Primary School and Darvel Primary School will be implemented in the current financial year with the new allocation for 20mph speed limits.

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Director of Development Services

6 October 2003
TSA/YK

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Keith Orton on 01563 555714

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