



## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT FUND 2002**

**Board Meeting - 6 February 2003**

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

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the North Social Inclusion Board of the outcome of this year's application, by East Ayrshire Council, to the fifth and final round of the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In 1999, the Scottish Executive created a Public Transport Fund to assist local authorities in providing value for money improvements to the public transport network. The funding has been distributed on the basis of annual bids submitted by the Scottish Local Authorities and the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority. During the last year, the authorities have also been invited to prepare submissions for an allocation from the 'preparation pool' which provides funding for public transport studies.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire Council has been successful in the earlier rounds of the Public Transport Fund bidding process. The additional funding secured has allowed the Council to commence an extensive programme of Public Transport Improvements which will be completed in 2005. The programme along with the period of implementation, is set out below:-

PTF 2 – Kilmarnock and Cumnock Bus Station Refurbishment  
(2000 – 2002)

PTF 3 – Kilmarnock cycleways and pedestrian measures (2001 – 2003)

PTF 4 – Kilmarnock Town Centre Action Plan (2002 – 2005)

### **3. CURRENT APPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 At its meeting in May 2002, East Ayrshire Council's Development Services Committee agreed to prepare a bid to the fifth round of the Public Transport Fund; PTF (5). The bid comprised 2 elements:-
- 3.2 A Full Bid to deliver:
- 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.

### 3.3 A Preparation Pool Bid:

- A study to assess the feasibility and associated implementation options for rail improvements to enhance the service between New Cumnock and Kilmarnock.

3.4 The funding sought for the Full Bid was £2,173,000 spread over 3 years. i.e. 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06. The funding sought for the Preparation Pool Bid was £104,000 in the 2003/2004 financial year.

3.5 The consultancy fee to develop the PTF (5) bids was jointly funded by the North Social Inclusion Initiative, Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and the Development Services Department of East Ayrshire Council.

3.6 North Ayrshire Council also submitted a Full Bid to the Public Transport Fund for an allocation to provide Quality Bus Corridor Measures in the Irvine Valley Corridor between Ardrossan and Kilmarnock. The package includes measures to improve bus facilities in Crosshouse and on the western approach to Kilmarnock. These improvements tie in with the Kilmarnock Town Centre action plan (PTF 4) and the proposed quality bus corridor improvements between Kilmarnock and Darvel (PTF 5).

## 4. OUTCOME OF THE BIDS

4.1 On 14 November, 2002, the Minister for Enterprise, Transport and Life Long Learning confirmed that the sum of £2,100,000 would be made available from the Public Transport Fund to enable East Ayrshire Council to implement the measures contained in the Full Bid, as outlined in 3.2 above. The funding allocated to the Council is as follows:-

2003/2004	-	£300,000
2004/2005	-	£700,000
2005/2006	-	£1,100,000

4.2 The Council's Preparation Pool bid was unsuccessful. The Minister indicated in his decision letter that given the weight of competing bids, it was felt that the study should not be awarded funding at this time.

4.3 The Council's applications were 2 of 42 bids received by the Scottish Executive from authorities throughout Scotland. 23 of these bids received financial support.

4.4 North Ayrshire Council was also successful in its bid for Quality Bus Corridor measures between Ardrossan and Kilmarnock. An early meeting will be sought with officers of North Ayrshire Council to progress the measures in so far as they affect East Ayrshire.

## **5. PUBLIC TRANSPORT FUND PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 The measures contained within the Full Bid are briefly summarised below.
- 5.2 Irvine Valley Public Transport Corridor – improvements to bus facilities along the A71 from Kilmarnock to Darvel, including enhanced bus shelters at the busier locations, bus timetable information panels, lighting at bus stops and raised kerbs at appropriate locations. Improved pedestrian crossing facilities, speed reduction measures, enhancements to footways and footpaths and reviews of traffic regulation orders will also be considered where necessary to provide safe pedestrian access to public transport facilities.
- 5.3 Kilmarnock to Cumnock Public Transport Corridor - improvements to the bus and pedestrian facilities along the A76 corridor similar to those set out in paragraph 3.2 above. In addition, improved integration between bus and rail at Auchinleck Station will be considered.
- 5.4 Cumnock Access Measures – improvements to bus facilities and pedestrian access measures in Cumnock and Logan as set out in 3.2 above. Enhancements to pedestrian and cycle facilities and linkages between residential areas and schools, employment centres, shopping centres and the bus station are also proposed. The measures include footway and lighting improvements to improve safety and security and encourage the use of public transport.
- 5.5 The preliminary design of the project which received funding will commence shortly. Because of the heavy workloads in the Council's Traffic Safety and Transportation Section and limited staff resources, it is intended to commission a specialists consultant to carry out this work. Local consultations will be carried out as an integral part of preparing the design prior to implementation.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the North Social Inclusion Board:
- i) note the contents of the above report;
  - ii) agree to participate in the consultation process associated with the successful bid; and
  - iii) otherwise note the content of this report.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services, East Ayrshire Council**  
**27 January 2003**