

REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - 24 JUNE 2002

REPORT ON: ROAD AND BRIDGE MAINTENANCE WORKS - ADDITIONAL FUNDING

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 511-2002

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the expenditure of the additional revenue funding allocated to Dundee City Council for maintenance of roads and bridges.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that committee:
- a Note the requirement to carry out risk assessments and any consequent works associated with road-rail interfaces: and
 - b Approve the expenditure of the additional funding made available for dealing with the above and the backlog in road and bridge maintenance works.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The works identified within the report can be met from within the Planning and Transportation Department's revenue budget for Road Maintenance in 2002/2003, including the additional revenue grant funding of £329,000.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Carrying out the Risk Assessments and any consequent works will ensure that the public are protected and that accessibility to facilities is maintained.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Implementation of these works will contribute to the Council's Local Transport Strategy by maintaining accessibility for all modes of transport throughout the City.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Following the Selby road/rail accident, a risk assessment framework has been prepared for assessing road-over-rail bridge crossings in Scotland. Local Authorities together with the rail infrastructure providers are now required to carry out such assessments and to implement any resulting works. A similar risk assessment protocol is being developed for roads running alongside railway lines and is expected to be available within the next few weeks.

- 6.2 In recognition of the affect that these additional works would have on the current backlog of repairs and maintenance to local roads and bridges, the Scottish Executive has made available an additional £329,000 funding for this purpose to Dundee City Council. This additional funding is subject to The Scottish Executives Conditions of Grant and will be subject to independent audit.
- 6.3 There are thirteen road-over-rail crossings and approximately 8km of parallel road-rail routes within the city boundary. Allowances have been made for carrying out risk assessments of £15,000 for road-over-rail crossings and £15,000 for parallel routes.
- 6.4 The above risk assessments are likely to establish a number of priority sites where works will be required to deal with any consequent risk. Although this is impossible to quantify at this stage, it is recommended that an allowance of £100,000 be made available for dealing with this matter.
- 6.5 Dundee's Local Transport Strategy (LTS) sets out five higher level objectives for transport namely: accessibility, economy, environment, safety and integration. Of the five higher level objectives accessibility is given a high priority.
- 6.6 It is recognised that Dundee's 55 bridges form a significant part of the road network and that their continued safe use is vital to maintain the high level of accessibility for all modes of transport currently provided throughout the city. Bridge maintenance is one of 25 key components of the LTS and has the following specific objective:
- *To maintain and strengthen existing bridges giving priority to the busiest and most important routes.*
- With this in mind, the LTS set a target:
- *to clear the backlog of outstanding routine bridge maintenance works by 2003.*
- 6.7 However, the first annual LTS monitoring report, reported to Committee on 28 January 2002, (Report No. 10-2002) noted that this target would not be met without a substantial increase in funding. It has been estimated that £1.7 million of investment is required to completely clear the backlog of routine bridge maintenance.
- 6.8 It is proposed therefore to target the remaining additional finance available at substantially reducing the bridge maintenance backlog and thereby sustaining the accessibility of Dundee's road network
- 6.8.1 The most pressing need is on bridges crossing railway lines where the consequent risks associated with a partial failure are greatest. It is proposed to allocate £100,000 towards carrying out inspections and routine maintenance works to such bridges and to bring forward long term proposals for repairing these where necessary.
- 6.8.2 Bridges away from railway lines and retaining walls supporting the road network have also been the subject of ongoing inspections although little maintenance works have been carried out for some time. It is proposed to allocate £99,000 to carrying out the most pressing areas of maintenance.

6.9 The above proposals are summarised as follows:

▪ Risk assessments of road-over-rail bridge sites	£ 15,000
▪ Risk assessments of road-rail parallel routes	£ 15,000
▪ Works arising from risk assessments	£100,000
▪ Bridges over rail inspection/maintenance/advanced design	£100,000
▪ General bridge and retaining wall repairs	<u>£ 99,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£329,000

7 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning, have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

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KL/KW

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