

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: A73 CORRIDOR – RIGGEND TO M8/A8
From: HEAD OF ROADS & TRANSPORTATION		
Date: 22 AUGUST 2007	Ref: HQ/TT/78/15/69	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authorisation to negotiate with JMP for the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) Part 2 and to inform Committee of the current transport appraisal being undertaken for the A73 corridor between Riggend, Airdrie and the M8/A8.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Although the A73 has been de-trunked for a number of years this route continues to carry substantial volumes of traffic including significant volumes of heavy vehicles. The communities of Airdrie and Chapelhall therefore, continue to suffer environmental effects of such traffic which are likely to be exacerbated by the completion of the Eurocentral Development and the redevelopment of Ravenscraig.

2.2 After a competitive tendering process JMP Consulting were commissioned to undertake a STAG Part 1 appraisal which looks at addressing access, road safety, congestion, air quality and development issues along the corridor.

2.3 This part of the appraisal involved consultation, during 2006, with Local Members, Community Councils, Transport Scotland, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Strathclyde Police, The Road Haulage Association and the Freight Transport Association in order to develop objectives and opportunities and is now complete.

2.4 A variety of options have been tested against the objectives, in addition to being tested for their anticipated value for money and implementability which has given rise to a preferred package of measures as follows.

- A new north – south route east of the existing A73 on one of a number of alignment options
- A new north – south bus service
- Improved co-ordination of and information on bus services
- Better evening and weekend bus services

2.5 The final stage is to carry out the STAG Part 2 which looks in detail at the above options and any additional options that may arise prior to recommending a final measure or package of measures.

2.6 Funding for this STAG Part 2 appraisal is included under the Roads "Strathclyde Partnership for Transport" heading within the capital programme of works for 2007/08.

2.7 This appraisal will contribute towards the Council's aim of improving road safety and the environment.

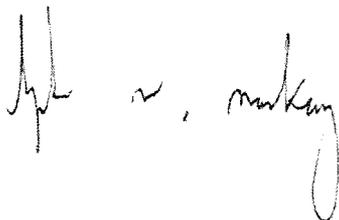
3. PROPOSALS

3.1 It is proposed that we enter into negotiations with JMP Consulting to obtain a price for carrying out the detailed STAG Part 2 appraisal for the corridor. Negotiating in this way represents best value for procuring the work, as JMP have the experience of carrying out these appraisals, have the background knowledge of the route having undertaken the first part of the appraisal and can provide a consistent approach through the entire appraisal process. A further report will be brought to Committee following this process.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- a) Note the work undertaken to date.
- b) Agree to negotiations with JMP Consulting to undertake the STAG Part 2.
- c) Note that a further report will be submitted to Committee on completion of negotiations.



Graham Mackay
HEAD OF ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Date: - 09 July 2007

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Tom Peebles, Traffic & Transportation Team Leader on 01236 616406.