

REPORT

To: AIRDRIE AREA COMMITTEE		Subject AIRDRIE TO BATHGATE BUS SERVICE
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 10 April 2001	Ref: D/TT/03/02/SCW	

Purpose of Report

1. This report updates Committee regarding proposals to introduce a bus service from Airdrie to Bathgate, linking the existing rail services in these towns.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee on 14 March 2001, a report was presented outlining proposals by Strathclyde Passenger Transport, in partnership with West Lothian Council, for the introduction of a scheduled bus service between Airdrie and Bathgate.

Proposals

3. It is proposed to provide a bus service, calling at Clarkston, Plains, Caldercruix, Blackridge and Armadale every 30 minutes throughout the day. The trial period for the service is scheduled at three years, starting from 23rd September 2001. This date co-incides with the introduction of the winter train timetable.
4. If implemented, the residents of Airdrie would have a high quality public transport service to Bathgate and onwards via the rail link to Edinburgh. The service, it is understood, would operate 7 days a week including evenings. The proposals for introducing this bus service may also prove useful in justifying further work on the reopening of a fixed rail link between Airdrie and Bathgate.
5. The funding of the bus service is likely to be achieved with the help of Rail Partnership Funding and rural transport grant. At the time of preparing this report it was anticipated that a recommendation on the tenders would be going to the meeting of the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority on 6 April.

Recommendations

6. Committee is asked to welcome the proposed bus link between Airdrie and Bathgate.



David M. Porch
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

27 March 2000