

Motherwell, 13 February 2002 at 2 pm.

**A Meeting of the PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (ROADS AND TRANSPORT)
SUB-COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Wilson, Convener; Councillors Barrie, Connelly, Coyle, Gray, Heberton, Hogg, McKendrick, Maginnis, W. Martin, M. Murray and Smith.

CHAIR

Councillor Wilson (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer; Traffic and Transportation Manager and Senior Road Safety Education Officer

APOLOGIES

Councillors Burns, McCabe and Moran.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION - REDUCING DISRUPTION FROM UTILITIES ROAD WORKS

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 February 2002 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising of the receipt of a consultation document from the Scottish Executive on the possible introduction of powers under Section 133 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 to reduce disruption from Utilities Roadworks; (2) intimating that the Scottish Executive has sought comments on the consultation document by 22 February 2002; (3) explaining that Section 133 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 provides for the issue of Regulations allowing Roads Authorities to charge Utility companies in connection with their works in the public road and footway network; (4) pointing out that these powers have, hitherto, not been exercised; (5) indicating that the consultation document identifies the following four options for dealing with the problem of disruption from roadworks, viz:- (a) do nothing; (b) introduce a Code of Practice; (c) introduce regulations allowing roads authorities to charge utilities where their roadworks exceed an agreed deadline, or (d) introduce powers to allow roads authorities to charge utilities from the outset of works - so called "lane rental"; (6) commenting on the merits of each of the four options; (7) recommending that the lane rental option, which would require the promotion of new powers through Parliament, would be the best option for reducing the disruption caused by Utilities' roadworks, and (8) proposing that he be authorised to provide a detailed response to the consultation on behalf of the Council to the Scottish Executive on the basis of the views outlined within the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of the consultation document by the Scottish Executive on the possible introduction of powers under Section 133 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 to reduce the disruption from Utility companies' works in the public road and footway network be noted and welcomed;
- (2) that it be agreed that the best option for reducing the disruption caused by Utilities Roadworks is the "lane rental" option, and

- (3) that, following consultation with the Convener of the Planning and Environment Committee, the Director of Planning and Environment be authorised to provide by the due date, a detailed response to the Scottish Executive on the basis of the views outlined within the report.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION - THE BLUE BADGE PARKING SCHEME FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 February 2002 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising of the receipt of a consultation document from the Scottish Executive regarding the Blue Badge Parking Scheme for Disabled People; (2) intimating that the Scottish Executive sought comments on the consultation document by 15 March 2002; (3) providing details of the background to the Disabled Persons Parking Badge Scheme, which was first introduced in 1971; (4) summarising the main recommendations proposed within the consultation document regarding (a) eligibility; (b) assessing eligibility; (c) administration of the scheme; (d) period of issue/fees/renewal process; (e) concessions, and (f) enforcement; (5) indicating that the consultation document would have implications for the Roads and Social Work interests of the Council; (6) proposing that a further report on the matter be considered following discussions between himself and the Director of Social Work, and (7) referring to a separate consultation paper which clarified the position regarding the concessions for the holders of Blue Badges in Scotland.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of the consultation document by the Scottish Executive which clarified the position for the holders of Blue Badges in Scotland be noted;
- (2) that the publication of the wider consultation on the Blue Badge Scheme and its implications for the Roads and Social Work interests of the Council be noted, and
- (3) that a further report on the matter be considered at a future meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee, following discussions between the Director of Planning and Environment and Director of Social Work.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE REGIONS -
CONSULTATION PROJECT APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK FOR PORTS**

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 February 2002 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising of the receipt of a consultation document from the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) on a project appraisal for sea ports; (2) advising that DTLR had sought comments on the consultation document by 5 April 2002; (3) intimating that the opening later this year of the new direct European Ferry Service between Rosyth and Zeebrugge, combined with the current problems and uncertainty associated with the European Rail Services from Eurocentral, meant that the proposals have a greater significance for the North Lanarkshire area than previously was the case; (4) containing his observations on the consultation document, and (5) proposing that the Council respond to the consultation on the basis of the views outlined within the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of the consultation document by the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions on a project appraisal framework for ports be noted, and

- (2) that the Director of Administration be authorised to respond to the consultation document on behalf of the Council, on the basis of the views outlined within the report, by the due date.

CHILD PEDESTRIAN TRAINING PROGRAMME

4. There was submitted a report dated 5 February 2002 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising Members of the Council's successful bid for grant funding to take part in a National Child Pedestrian Training Project, sponsored by the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions; (2) intimating that on 23 January 2002 the Council had received confirmation from the Scottish Executive that it was one of the three Councils in Scotland whose bid to fund a Co-ordinator's post had been accepted for this pilot scheme; (3) explaining that the primary aim of the pilot scheme is to demonstrate how effective child pedestrian training schemes may be established, maintained and sustained in the longer term; (4) indicating that his Department's Road Safety staff would oversee the project, in liaison with staff from the Department of Education and Strathclyde Police; (5) reporting that it was anticipated that a Co-ordinator to manage the Scheme would be in place by 1 May 2002, and (6) advising that it was anticipated that the training of children would commence by September 2002.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council's success in obtaining grant funding for one of the three Co-ordinator posts available in Scotland be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that regular progress reports on the project and the national pilot would be submitted to the Sub-Committee, and
- (3) that the report be referred to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for its interest.