

Motherwell, 18 January 2005 at 3 pm.

A Special Meeting of the **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor J. Coyle, Convener; Councillors McKenna and Wilson, Vice-Conveners; Provost Connelly; Councillors Barrie, Gemmell, Gordon, Gorman, Gormill, Gray, Griffin, Hogg, Holloway, Homer, Irvine, Lafferty, Lyle, McCabe, J. McGuigan, Maginnis, W. Martin, Moran, M. Murray, Pentland and Smith.

CHAIR

Councillor J. Coyle (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Manager and Head of Roads and Transportation.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Brooks, Burns, McKendrick and Saunders.

A80 STEPPS TO HAGGS - UPGRADE PROPOSALS - ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

1. Under reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 February 2004 there was submitted a report (docketed) by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) containing proposals presented by the Scottish Executive in a full environmental statement for the upgrade of the remaining non-motorway section of the A80 between Stepps and Haggs; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) reminding Members that both the A80 and A8 had been included in the comprehensive Central Scotland Transport Corridor Study commissioned by the Executive in 1999 which had been completed in mid 2002 when the decision of the Ministers had been for an upgrade of the existing roads to full grade separated motorway status; (4) intimating that the Executive had given a commitment that the upgrades would be completed by 2010 and there would be complementary improvements in rail and bus services; (5) summarising the upgrade proposals and considerations and indicating that Draft Orders relating to the upgrade of the road had been issued as follows:-
 - (a) the M80/M73 Special Roads (Moodiesburn Bypass) scheme draft order;
 - (b) the M80 Special Road (Auchenkilns to Haggs) scheme draft order;
 - (c) the M80/M73 Special Roads (Moodiesburn Bypass) (Side Roads) draft order;
 - (d) the A80 Trunk Road (Auchenkilns to Haggs) (Side Roads) draft order;
 - (e) the M80/M73 Special Roads (Moodiesburn Bypass) Compulsory Purchase draft order;
 - (f) the M80 Special Road (Auchenkilns to Haggs) Compulsory Purchase draft order;
 - (g) the M80 Special Road (Mollinsburn to Auchenkilns) Trunk Road Appropriation draft order;
 - (h) the M80 Special Road (Auchenkilns to Haggs) Trunk Road Appropriation draft order;
 - (i) the M80/M73 (Moodiesburn Bypass) Special Roads (Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way) draft order;

- (j) the M80/A80 Trunk Roads (Stepps to Moodiesburn) Detrunking draft order
- (k) the Stepps Bypass (M80) (City of Glasgow District Boundary to Crow Wood) (Connecting Roads) Special Road (Revocation) draft scheme, and
- (l) the Stepps Bypass (M80) (City of Glasgow Boundary to Crow Wood) Special Roads (Variation) draft scheme;

(6) intimating that the Special Roads Order indicated the intention to construct a new section of the motorway off-line from existing M80 at Hornshill Junction to Mollinsburn and upgrade the existing A80 Trunk Road to motorway status between Mollinsburn and Haggs Junction; (7) summarising the main components of the proposed Scheme; (8) providing the Director's comments thereon; (9) indicating that the Transport Minister had advised that (a) the environmental statements and published orders were for the on-line route only and all documentation issued in support of the Draft Orders related solely to the on-line upgrade proposal, and (b) should objectors wish to present evidence in relation to alternative options, such as the Kelvin Valley route at any subsequent public local enquiry, these would be considered thoroughly and fairly; (10) advising that any alternative proposal would require to be the subject of a Stage 3 design and environmental assessment and publication of associated line orders involving significant delay to the project which would result in the need for substantial and extensive reconstruction works which would cause significant disruption to local communities, and (11) recommending that the Committee (a) accept the proposed on-line upgrade as being a much needed improvement of this key route in North Lanarkshire; (b) press the Scottish Executive to complete the upgrade proposals by 2010, and (c) press the Scottish Executive to maintain their commitment to substantial early investment in bus and rail infrastructure in the corridor.

Councillor Griffin, seconded by Councillor McCabe moved the recommendations as contained within the report.

Councillor Homer, seconded by Councillor Gemmell, moved, as an amendment, that (a) the Committee do not accept the proposed on-line upgrade of the A80 in light of comments made by the Transport Minister who had stated that objectors could present evidence to a public enquiry in relation to alternative options such as the Kelvin Valley route; (b) that the Scottish Executive be pressed to hold an immediate public enquiry to consider objections to an A80 upgrade, and (c) that the Scottish Executive be pressed to maintain their commitment to substantial early investment in bus and rail infrastructure in the corridor.

On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 19 Members voted for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee accept the proposed on-line upgrade as being a much needed improvement of this key route in North Lanarkshire;
- (2) that the Scottish Executive be pressed to complete the upgrade proposals by 2010, and
- (3) that the Scottish Executive be pressed to maintain their commitment to substantial early investment in bus and rail infrastructure in the corridor.