

**Motherwell, 5 October 2005 at 2 pm.**

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

**PRESENT**

Councillors J. Coyle, Griffin, Hogg, Johnston, McKendrick and McKenna.

**CHAIR**

In terms of Standing Order No. 11 and in the absence of the Convener, Councillor J. Coyle was appointed to and took the Chair.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Committee Services Officer, and Head of Roads and Transportation.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Burns, Gray, J. McGuigan, W. Martin and Wilson.

**ROADS REVENUE BUDGET - CONTRACTORS LINE - PROGRESS ON 2005/06 CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

1. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 10 August 2005, there was submitted a report dated 20 September 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing the Sub-Committee (a) of the current level of expenditure of the Roads Revenue Budget - Contractors Line, and (b) of progress within the 2005/06 Capital Programme; (2) detailing the three elements of contractors expenditure; (3) summarising and containing his observations on the up to date position with regard to the expenditure element, and (4) recommending that the Sub-Committee note the current situation with regard to Contractors Line expenditure and the 2005/06 Capital Programme.

**Decided:** that the current situation with regard to Contractors Line expenditure and the 2005/06 Capital Programme be noted.

**ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME 2005/06**

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 23 February 2005, there was submitted a report dated 5 October 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment in respect of renewal works to roads, footways, street lighting and structures during 2005/06 and (1) outlining the background to the report; (2) detailing the Road Works and Lighting Programmes for 2005/06; (3) containing his observations on the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) in respect of (a) street lighting, and (b) traffic signals; (4) advising of the actions taken to reduce the number of third party claims against the Council due to road defects, and (5) recommending that the achievements of the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to expanding the asset renewal programme and the improved performance of the roads maintenance service be noted.

**PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (ROADS AND TRANSPORT) SUB –  
5 October 2005**

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**Decided:**

- (1) that a full report summarising the advantages and disadvantages, together with the comparative costs of replacing slabbed surfaces on footpaths with bitumen be submitted by the Director of Planning and Environment to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee, and
- (2) that the achievements of the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to expanding the asset renewal programme and the improved performance of the roads maintenance service be noted.

**ADVISORY DISABLED PARKING BAYS**

3. There was submitted a joint report dated 21 September 2005 by the Directors of Social Work and Planning and Environment (1) advising Members of the current arrangements regarding the provision of Advisory Disabled Parking Bays; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) setting out proposed new procedures for recording and monitoring Disabled Parking Bays, and (4) proposing that the Social Work Information System be amended to record Disabled Parking Bays in the same way that Blue Disabled Parking Badges are recorded.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the introduction of the revised procedures for monitoring Disabled Parking Bays be approved;
- (2) that the proposed amendments to be made to the Social Work Information System be noted;
- (3) that a report on the implementation and monitoring of this system be submitted to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee, and
- (4) that the report be otherwise noted.

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE GATEWAY SIGNING**

4. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the Economic Regeneration Committee held on 20 January 2004, there was submitted a report dated 20 September 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing of progress made, to date, in installing gateway signs on the A80 and A73; (2) reminding Members that Merson Signs had been appointed to install the first phase of the rolling programme; (3) setting out proposals to continue with the installation of gateway signage on the A class roads (A89, A803 and A71), and (4) seeking approval to enter into negotiations with the existing contractor for the provision of further gateways signs.

The Head of Roads and Transportation then orally advised (1) that the gateway signing that had been erected during the first phase of the programme had made a positive impact on the quality of the environment; (2) that since the distinctive signs had proved to be a great success, it was proposed that negotiations be entered into with Merson Signs to ensure that the same design of signs be used in the next phase of works; (3) that Merson Signs had subsequently developed the sign system and had improved the installation and maintenance of the signs, and (4) that by negotiating the tender, the Council would ensure that the same design was used and would benefit as a result of the expertise and experience gained by the current contractor during the first phase of the works.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Director of Planning and Environment be authorised to enter into negotiations with the current supplier, Merson Signs for the installation of gateway signs on the A89, A803 and A71, and
- (2) that the progress made in the installation of gateway signs on the A80 and A73 be noted.

**THIRD PARTY CLAIMS**

5. There was submitted a report dated 21 September 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) informing of the latest figures relating to third party claims; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) advising that the measures put in place by his Department appear to have had a positive effect in reducing the overall number of claims submitted and the Department's ability to defend claims; (4) providing a breakdown on the proportion of each type of claim in 2004/05, and (5) recommending that the report be noted.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress being made on reducing the number of third party claims be noted;
- (2) that the introduction of additional measures aimed at further reducing the number of claims be noted, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

**AIRDRIE-BATHGATE RAIL LINK**

6. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 8 December 2004, there was submitted a report dated 6 October 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) updating Members on progress with the proposal to re-open the Airdrie-Bathgate Rail Link; (2) outlining the background to the report; (3) advising that a governance structure entitled the Core Stakeholder Group had been established to determine appropriate representation on the various Working Groups and comprised representatives of (a) North Lanarkshire Council; (b) West Lothian Council; (c) the Scottish Executive; (d) Network Rail; (e) Strathclyde Passenger Transport; (f) First ScotRail, and (g) Jacobs Babbie; (4) intimating (a) that the next key stage in the project would be public consultation, with public meetings arranged in Airdrie, Plains and Caldercruix, as well as appropriate West Lothian locations, and (b) that prior to the consultation events, the scheme consultants would meet Councillors to present their preferred scheme and justify their reasons for opting for it; (4) reminding Members that one of the main issues for the Council was concern over the number and location of stations; (5) indicating that as part of the preferred scheme, the Scottish Executive would consider the potential number and location of any new stations; (6) advising that the re-opening of the line would contribute positively to the Council's social inclusion and economic regeneration objectives, and (7) recommending that the report be otherwise noted.

**Decided:**

- (1) that a presentation by the Scottish Executive on their preferred scheme be held on a date to be arranged and to which all Members of the Council would be invited, and
  - (2) that the report be otherwise noted.
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**PETITIONS**

**(1) PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON WINDMILLHILL STREET AT FERN STREET, MOTHERWELL**

7. With reference to paragraph 23 of the Minute of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 17 November 2004, there was submitted a report dated 20 September 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising the Sub-Committee of investigations carried out following receipt of a petition from the Motherwell Elderly Forum requesting a pedestrian crossing on Windmillhill Street, Motherwell; (2) outlining the background to the report; (3) containing his observations on the results of the investigation; (4) advising that a feasibility study with regards to the widening of Windmillhill Street to help alleviate congestion should be completed in the current financial year, and (5) pointing out that the implementation of signalised pedestrian crossing facilities on Windmillhill Street in advance of the possible road widening works would prove abortive if the road widening works subsequently took place.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the implementation of signalised pedestrian crossing facilities on Windmillhill Street in the vicinity of the bus lay-by opposite Fern Street, with the work to be incorporated into the road widening scheme for Windmillhill Street, be approved;
- (2) that a further report be brought before this Sub-Committee following the completion of the feasibility study into the widening of Windmillhill Street which would identify timescales for delivery of both projects, and
- (3) that the Director of Administration advise the petitioners accordingly.

**(2) TRAFFIC CALMING SYSTEM IN KING STREET, COATBRIDGE**

8. There was submitted a report dated 9 September 2005 by the Director of Administration advising of the receipt of a petition from residents in the vicinity of King Street, Coatbridge requesting the provision of a traffic calming scheme in King Street.

**Decided:** that consideration of the matter be continued pending the submission of a further report by the Director of Planning and Environment.