Purpose of the Report
1. This report advises Committee regarding a response to a petition received from local residents in the vicinity of a footbridge in Cumbernauld.

Main Report
2. A petition has been received from residents of the Carbrain area and users of the Carbrain Gully footbridge in Cumbernauld. The petitioners seek action in removing and replacing the footbridge.

3. The bridge in question spans a gully between the Stoneylee Road and Torbrex Road areas of Carbrain. It is a wooden structure erected by the former development corporation and forms an important part of the local footway network.

4. Earlier this year a young girl fell through a gap in the decking. She was not seriously injured but local residents immediately began to campaign for replacement of the structure.

5. It is unclear as to how the hole in the decking occurred nor was any defect reported to the Department prior to the incident. However, in view of the importance of the footway to pedestrian movement in the area, following the incident in question, the entire pedestrian surface on the existing wooden bridge was covered with 3/4" exterior grade plywood sheeting plus wire mesh netting. This was overlaid with a slurry seal to give a better walking surface.

6. Residents referred to a "rotted bridge structure". While the bridge had undoubtedly suffered from the ravages of time, there was no question about the overall structural integrity of the bridge and we were satisfied that there was no need for immediate closure. No structure, however, lasts for ever and we commissioned an independent review by an external consultant. Meanwhile the condition of the bridge continued to be closely monitored by this Department.

7. As a result of the review by the consultant, we have advanced our programme for replacing the bridge. The footpath was stopped up on 9 August to allow removal of the existing bridge. Work will then begin for the provision of new foundations and we expect the new bridge to be installed by the end of September this year.

Recommendations
8. Members are asked to :-
   a) note the receipt of the petition, and
   b) homologate the action already taken to deal with the matter

David M. Porch
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
(8 July 2004)