

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**ROADS COMMITTEE**

**27 APRIL 2000**

**PASS PLUS SCHEME FOR NOVICE DRIVERS**

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS**

**ABSTRACT**

This report discusses the success of the Pass Plus scheme for young drivers and considers a proposal for continuing the scheme for the year 2000/2001.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the committee agrees to:-

- (i) Continue supporting the Pass Plus Scheme for newly qualified drivers by contributing the sum of £9000 towards the cost of 150 No. Pass Plus Courses to be provided by qualified driving instructors.
- (ii) Note that a further 50 No. Pass Plus Courses will be subsidised by the funding already made available from the Partners Versus Crime Initiative.

**2 DETAILS**

At its meeting on 20 April the Roads Committee agreed to provide a 2/3 subsidy of £60 towards the cost to each young driver of a Pass Plus Course to be provided by an approved driving school. This scheme has proved to be successful and although it is too early to quantify this success from the accident records it is clear that any further training for young drivers is to be welcomed.

There is evidence that younger drivers in Angus do pose problems to pedestrians in urban areas and appear to be more at risk in single vehicle accidents on rural roads. There is, therefore, good reason to target younger people as and when they pass their driving test to establish a more mature level of driver behaviour.

Some 190 No. young drivers had registered an initial interest in the scheme although only 101 No. have applied for and received the £60 contribution. However 51 No. of these grants have been paid during the first 3 months of this year and the indications are that the driving schools are now much more active in promoting the scheme.

Given the current rate of take-up it is anticipated that around 200 No. young drivers will apply for the £60 contribution in a full year. The cost of subsidising this level of interest would therefore be £12000.

As reported to the Roads Committee on 14 October 1999 the interest in the scheme from the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Panels resulted in funding being made available for the scheme from the Partners Versus Crime (PVC) initiative to top up the Council's contribution. Some £2960 has been allocated from this source to top up the Council's initial budget of £6500 for the scheme. This PVC money has therefore not been required this financial year and will be available to subsidise the scheme during year 2000/2001. Assuming that the current level of interest in the scheme is maintained it is therefore proposed that the Council subsidise 150 No. places on the Pass Plus Scheme from the Roads Department's financial allocation for Road Safety.

When the scheme was originally approved by Committee it was intended that only those young drivers who had attended a drivers awareness programme organised by the police would be eligible. This was seen as a means of controlling the numbers of applicants. However this has proved to be difficult to manage with only limited numbers of Driver Awareness courses being available in each area. The police are now considering how best to organise the Driver Awareness Programme and how it should relate to the Pass Plus Scheme.

Until now the Pass Plus Schemes the administration has been done within the Chief Executive's Department and organised by the police Community Safety Officer seconded to this department. This has meant that the applications for the subsidy (which are submitted by the driving schools themselves) were sent in to the Chief Executive's Department who in turn passed them to the Roads Department for actual payment. It is now proposed that the Roads Department administer the Pass Plus Scheme in its entirety, ie register the applicants interest on the database and then receive the applications for payment. This will allow a more direct control of the expenditure towards the end of the financial year in the event of the scheme being over-subscribed.

The other arrangements for the Pass Plus Scheme remain as agreed by Committee in Report 440/99 – 20 April 1999:-

- (1) The scheme will be restricted to novice drivers in the 17 -20 age group.
- (2) The scheme must if possible be completed within 6 months of passing the driving test.
- (3) The scheme will be restricted to drivers resident in the Angus Council area.
- (4) Interested applicants will be required to register for the Pass Plus Scheme before commencing the course of driving lessons.
- (5) On completion of the course the driver is issued with a certificate which will provide evidence that the course has been completed. This will be submitted to the Roads department by the driving school and the £60 subsidy will then be paid directly to the driving school.

The future relationship between the Pass Plus Scheme and the Driver Awareness Programme will be discussed further with the police.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of sponsoring 150 young drivers through the Pass Plus Scheme will be £9000 and this can be met from the Roads Department Revenue Budget for Traffic in the current financial year.

The available Partners Versus Crime funding will subsidise the other 50 applicants expected during the year 2000/2001.

### **4 CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance and the Chief Constable have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

Dr Bob McLellan  
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

#### NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:-

Report No 440/99 - Pass Plus For Novice Drivers approved by the Roads Committee on 20 April 1999.

Report No 1022/99 - Pass Plus For Scheme approved by the Roads Committee on 14 October 1999.

NJ/JSG  
30 March 2000  
REPORTS/pass.plus