

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE

24 AUGUST 2000

FORFAR-LETHAM ROAD
HILLEND JUNCTION

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT

This report considers the investigations which have been taking place with regard to the B9128/C51 junction at Hillend and recommends that any scheme to improve this junction should be deferred meantime.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agree that proposals to improve the B9128/C51 junction at Hillend be deferred meantime because of the high costs involved.

2 INTRODUCTION

Report number 654/98 by the Director of Roads was approved by Committee in June 1998, and it was agreed that the Director of Property and the Director of Law and Administration should enter into negotiations to acquire land at Hillend and Dunnichen to allow future junction improvements.

Since then various options for improving the junction at Hillend have been investigated and are outlined below.

3 DETAILS

Hillend junction is situated at the Letham turn-off (C51) on the B9128 Forfar to Muirdrum Road. The junction has been the cause of concern for some time because of the poor visibility for drivers when turning right into or out of the side road. Traffic flow on the side road has increased in recent years because of development in Letham.

Accident records indicate that there have been a number of minor incidents on the main road bends to the north of the junction, and a number of vehicles on the main road have lost control at the junction.

A number of options for improving the road layout at this junction have been looked at but the only effective solution involves realignment and widening of the main road to the north of the junction. Because of the steep hill at the side of the road any

realignment would be very expensive because of the earthworks and retaining walls required. The cost of any such scheme would be in the region of £150,000. An initial sum of £47,000 had been allowed for within the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repair fund to allow commencement of works during the current financial year. However, in view of the overall cost compared to the provisional funding allocated and the present lack of alternative funding sources within the Roads Department's budgets, it is proposed to postpone the scheme meantime.

The Director of Roads will therefore re-assess the road markings and signage at this junction to determine whether any further low-cost measures could be introduced to enhance road safety at this location.

4 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

As indicated above, an initial sum of £47,000 had been allowed for within the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repair fund to allow commencement of works during the current financial year. Approximately £2000 has been taken up in engineering/admin costs in investigating the feasibility of road layout improvements. The balance of £45,000 would therefore be freed up for other traffic safety measures elsewhere.

The feasibility work which has been done to date will allow accurate estimates of scheme costs to be prepared. These costings can then be taken into account in the budget review process and will be used to inform the preparation of the 2001/02 budget. Any further low cost measures carried out in the current year will be contained within the Traffic Revenue Budget.

5 **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.

6 **CONCLUSION**

Although it would be desirable to carry out improvements to the B9128/C51 junction at Hillend, the cost involved compared to available funding provision means that it will have to be postponed meantime.

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 number 654/98 'Forfar-Letham Road, Hillend and Dunnichen Junctions', Angus Council Roads Committee - 11 June 1998.

FDCN/JSG
27 July 2000
REPORTS/forfar.letnam