

ANGUS COUNCIL

At a MEETING of the **ROADS COMMITTEE** held in The Town and County Hall, Forfar on Wednesday 17 January 1996 at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors SANDY WEST, GEORGE P ALLAN, RICHARD B SPEIRS, ALEX W SHAND, BRIAN M C MILNE, JOHN C GIBB, Mrs FRANCES E DUNCAN, WILLIAM MIDDLETON, WILLIAM G CROWE, IAN MACKINTOSH, FRANK ELLIS and ROBERT J MURRAY.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor GEORGE A LAMONT.
Councillor WEST, Convener, in the Chair.

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 6 December 1995 was accepted as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

2. COUNCIL ROADS INFRASTRUCTURES - ASSESSMENT AND STRENGTHENING - PROGRESS REPORT AND FUTURE PROGRAMME

There was submitted Report No AC97/96 by the Director of Roads summarising the results of the first four years of the Bridge Assessment Programme carried out by Tayside Regional Council as it related to Angus Council, identifying the number of bridges still needing assessment and providing a summary of the estimated cost of completing the programme and carrying out the necessary associated strengthening works.

The Committee noted, in particular, that 23 Angus Council bridges required to be assessed, together with a further 45 bridges owned by other bodies. The majority of these were owned by Railtrack, and Central Government had decided that the cost of assessing Railtrack's bridges up to the 40 tonne vehicle weight limit, and any subsequent strengthening required over and above the obligations of the Construction and Use Regulations which were extant in 1970, should be met by local authorities.

The Committee approved the terms of the Report and agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress of the Bridge Assessment and Strengthening Programme in Angus to date;
- (ii) to note that some 23 Council owned bridges and 45 non-Council owned bridges still required to be assessed and strengthening works carried out, as appropriate;
- (iii) to note the requirement for continued funding and increased funding in subsequent financial years to meet the target date of 1 January 1999 for the assessment and strengthening, as appropriate, of both Council and non-Council owned bridges;
- (iv) to condemn Central Government for the decision that the cost of assessing and subsequent strengthening of Railtrack bridges should be met by local councils, and to call on COSLA to make the strongest possible representations to the Scottish Secretary to remove this duty or to make additional money available; and
- (v) to authorise the Director of Roads to use the Select List of Consulting Engineers currently operated by Tayside Regional Council in relation to assessment and bridge strengthening works, where appropriate.

3. WEATHER EMERGENCY OPERATIONS 1995/96

There was submitted Report No AC12/96 by the Director of Roads indicating that Tayside Regional Council currently provided a full range of winter and other emergency maintenance services to all areas within Tayside Region and would do so until 31 March 1996. However, it would be necessary for Angus Council to specify clearly what service arrangements would be in place for winter emergency operations after 1 April 1996 and it was suggested that Tayside Regional Council's current winter maintenance policy and level of service be continued until the end of the 1995/96 winter period.

It was suggested that, for the 1996/97 winter period, it would be preferable for the policies and procedures to be reviewed in the light of local government reorganisation to ascertain the most effective method of winter maintenance service delivery in the Angus area.

The Committee approved the terms of the Report and agreed:-

- (i) that the winter maintenance emergency arrangements be continued until the end of the 1995/96 winter period in accordance with Tayside Regional Council's current winter maintenance policy and level of service; and
- (ii) that the Director of Roads submit a Report on the various alternatives for providing winter maintenance operations after April 1996 for the 1996/97 winter period for Angus Council.

4. CLARENCE - CUSTOMER CARE HELP LINE

There was submitted Report No AC11/96 by the Director of Roads advising the Committee that CLARENCE (Customer Lighting and Road Enquiry Centre) was a customer care facility which allowed the general public to report quickly and easily any road and lighting defects or hazards. The system had been adopted by several Scottish Regional Councils, including Tayside, and had proved to be a success.

It was suggested that the system should be continued within Angus Council, with a member of staff dedicated to dealing solely with CLARENCE incoming calls, and other associated duties when time permitted. While this would incur additional extended staffing costs, media/press costs and additional signing costs totalling £37,000, these could be contained within the structural and cyclic maintenance element of the revenue budget. Notwithstanding this, it might be possible to reduce this cost by seeking sponsorship and assistance with staffing from other parties.

The Committee approved the terms of the Report and agreed:-

- (i) to note the success in Scotland of the CLARENCE system and its continued expansion into other areas of the United Kingdom;
- (ii) to continue to operate the CLARENCE system during normal working hours with a pre-recorded taped message giving a contact number outwith these times for emergency situations;
- (iii) to publicise the Council's commitment to CLARENCE via local press and radio sources and to seek possible partnerships for sponsorship of additional CLARENCE road signing as appropriate; and
- (iv) to note that the adoption of the CLARENCE system would assist in the Council's responsibility with respect to the recently successful Tay Premium Unit Consortium bid for the maintenance and management of the trunk roads where a customer care system was specified as being a requirement in the contract documentation.

5. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF TRUNK ROADS - TAY PREMIUM UNIT

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of the meeting of the Council of 13 September 1995, there was submitted Report No AC10/96 by the Director of Roads indicating that the Tay Premium Unit Consortium had now been advised of their success in tendering for the work for the management and maintenance of the Tay Premium Unit Trunk roads, including those

sections within Tayside, and seeking authority to take all necessary measures to allow the successful commencement of the contract on 1 April 1996.

The Committee approved the terms of the Report and agreed:-

- (i) to note the success of the Tay Premium Unit Local Authority Consortium tender for the management and maintenance of the premium trunk roads, including those sections within the Tayside Region, and to extend their congratulations to all those concerned in the successful bid;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Roads to take all necessary measures to allow successful commencement of the contract from 1 April 1996 and to allow successful execution of the contract thereafter; and
- (iii) to note that the Scottish Office would require Angus Council to enter into an agency agreement with them for the management and maintenance of the premium trunk road network within the Angus area.

6. A92 MONTROSE BRIDGE - SITUATION SUMMARY REPORT NO 2

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of the Roads Committee of 11 October 1995, there was submitted Report No AC9/96 by the Director of Roads indicating that Carl Bro Group Consultants had now further advanced their study of the requirements for inspection testing of the Montrose Bridge.

The consultants had recommended (a) a trial ground radar survey of the deck slab be carried out, (b) the use of expansion testing to measure the potential for further Alkali - Silica - Reaction damage and (c) the installation of a number of strain gauges on the main beams and towers of the bridge. The estimated cost of these monitoring measures was £19,000 over a two year period which was within the sum included in the bid Financial Plan submitted to the Scottish Office.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations of Carl Bro Group Consultants for further monitoring measures on the A92 Montrose Bridge; and
- (ii) to note that the estimated total cost of the proposed monitoring measures over the next two years would amount to some £18,7000, subject to available financial resources.

7. A92 MONTROSE INNER RELIEF ROAD

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of the Roads Committee of 6 December 1995, there was submitted Report No AC6/96 by the Director of Roads indicating that Scottish Enterprise Tayside had informally confirmed that it would provide funding for the environmental landscaping work on the Montrose Inner Relief Road to a value of not less than £650,000 and that Tayside Regional Council would be in a position to accept the lowest tender received from Balfour Beatty Construction (Scotland) Ltd as soon as formal confirmation had been received. It was anticipated that construction work would start in mid-February 1996.

The Committee noted the terms of the Report and agreed:-

- (i) to note that Scottish Enterprise Tayside had now intimated that funding was in place for the costs associated with the environmental landscaping works on the Montrose Inner Relief Road Project; and
- (ii) to note that Tayside Regional Council would shortly be in a position to accept the tender for the Montrose Inner Relief Road as submitted by Balfour Beatty Construction (Scotland) Ltd.

8. A92 - PROCUREMENT OPTIONS

The Convener intimated that the Report on the procurement options for the A92 route had not yet been completed and would be submitted to the meeting of the Council to be held on 24 January.