

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2002
FINANCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – 12 MARCH 2002

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE REPAIRS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ACTING DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT

This report advises the Committees of extra funding being made available by the Scottish Executive for the purpose of carrying out assessments of road-over-rail bridges, and repairs and maintenance on local roads and bridges.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committees note :

- the award of £516,000 from the Scottish Executive for the purpose of carrying out assessments of road-over-rail bridges, and repairs and maintenance of local roads and bridges ; and
- that a further report will be submitted in due course regarding the recommended programme of works to be funded from this award.

2. BACKGROUND

It has been announced by the Scottish Executive that local authorities across Scotland are to receive a cash injection which will enable them to tackle repairs and maintenance on roads and bridges in their area.

The announcement of this additional funding coincided with the publication of the Health & Safety Commission working group report and the Highway's Agency Working Group report following the Selby road / rail incident. Local authorities are being encouraged therefore to direct some of this award towards risk assessments of locations where roads meet, cross or run close to railway lines.

A total of £20 million revenue funding has been made available for these repairs and risk assessments, which must be carried out over the next 7 months. Angus Council was informed in a letter of 25 February 2002 from the Scottish Executive that its allocation of this total sum is £516,000.

3. PROGRAMME OF WORKS

It will be necessary to prepare a programme of works to be funded from this award. It is intended that this is done over the coming weeks with recommendations being presented to the Roads Committee on 2nd May 2002.

Whilst this additional funding is very welcome it must be viewed in the context of the estimated £61 million required to bring Angus' roads network infrastructure up to the standards required for an economic maintenance regime.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications directly as a result of this report. Proposals regarding the use of the funds allocated to Angus will be the subject of a further report.

5. CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

The following conditions must be met with regard to the award :

- the award must be used for the purpose of carrying out assessments of road-over-rail bridges, and repairs and maintenance on local roads and bridges ; and
- the works must be carried out over the next 7 months.

Further detail on the conditions of the award will be reported to committee in due course.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive and Director of Law & Administration have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

8. CONCLUSION

Angus Council has been awarded additional revenue funding of £516,000 from the Scottish Executive for the purpose of repairs and maintenance on local roads and bridges. This falls a long way short of the estimated £61 million required to bring Angus' roads network up to the standards required for an economic maintenance regime.

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NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.