

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE

13 JUNE 2002

ROAD STANDARDS DOCUMENT

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT

This report considers proposals to update Angus Council's Road Standards Document

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agree that the Director of Roads appoint a Consultant to assist with the preparation of a new Road Standards Document.

2 INTRODUCTION

In 1992, Tayside Regional Council, produced a Road Standards Document, which set down the requirements for designing and constructing all new roads in Tayside. Following the establishment of Angus Council, the document was modified to convert it to an Angus Council document without any technical changes. The document has served its purpose very well over the last ten years but consideration now requires to be given to updating it.

3 DETAILS

A number of Scottish authorities have produced Roads Standards documents in recent years. Consideration has also been given by SCOTS to the production of a standard Scottish Road Standards Document which would be designed to include a separate section to allow for local variations. This, however, appears to be a long way off and authorities who have already produced a new document of their own are unlikely to be willing to contribute to another document. There is a considerable amount of work required in updating the document bearing in mind the changes that have taken place over the last ten years. However, the fact that the guidance has not been updated has not prevented the introduction of new measures such as traffic calming, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, etc, into new developments.

In order to update the Angus Council document a large number of factors require to be taken into account. For example changes in design and construction practice, changes in national standards, other authorities documents, the views of users, new parking standards, the preparation and printing of the document. Although these steps are not difficult in themselves, given the ongoing commitments of the Roads Department it is difficult for the Director of Roads to assign the staff resources necessary to produce the document in a reasonable time-scale without serious

interruption to the day-to-day work. There is clearly a considerable overlap of interest between the Roads Department and the Development Control Section of the Planning and Transport Department with respect to ensuring that the Road Standards reflect the Council's planning policies, are consistent with national standards, and give clear guidance to developers. The Director of Planning and Transport has therefore offered to assist in updating the Road Standards document by providing £5000 towards the cost of the exercise and making appropriate Development Control staff available to assist in developing the brief, advising on planning and development implications, and steering the project through to conclusion. However this input will be on an ad hoc basis and, like the Director of Roads, the Director of Planning and Transport would be unable to provide staff resources on a full-time basis to complete the work in-house within a reasonable timescale. It is therefore proposed to appoint a consultant to manage the project. This would also have the advantage of drawing in knowledge and experience from elsewhere. There will nevertheless still be the need for considerable input from existing staff in both the Roads Department and the Planning and Transport Department.

Suitably qualified and experienced consultants will therefore be invited to submit their names to go on a select list to carry out the project. Depending on the response four to six of those applying would then be required to submit a proposal to carry out the project broadly in line with Appendix A together with a cost. These consultants would then be interviewed and the one which offered best value to the Council would be appointed.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the work cannot be known with certainty until a suitable consultant has been appointed. However this cost is not expected to exceed £10,000, provision for which has been made in the Roads Traffic Revenue Budget for 2002/03 (£5000) and in the Planning and Transport Revenue Budget for 2002/03 (£5000).

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising from the proposals in this report.

6 CONSULTATION

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

7 CONCLUSION

The existing Road Standards Document requires to be updated in the near future and in view of the work required it is proposed to appoint a Consultant to assist with the necessary work.

Ronnie McNeil
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:-

Angus Council Road Standards Document

FDCN/JSG
23 May 2002
REPORTS/road.standards

APPENDIX A**REVIEW OF ROAD STANDARDS DOCUMENT**

- 1 Set up management of project.
- 2 Assess existing document.
 - 2.1 Set up working group of relevant Local Authority officers.
 - 2.2 Discuss with other officers of relevant departments that are operating the standards to identify areas where current standards are presenting difficulties.
 - 2.3 Obtain officers' views on how these problems might be overcome.
 - 2.4 Contact architects and developers to ascertain their views.
- 3 Obtain similar documents from neighbouring local authorities.
 - 3.1 Compare standards taking into account local factors.
- 4 Provide initial report.
- 5 Assess current standards – by working groups.
 - 5.1 Compare against National Guidelines.
 - 5.2 Compare against any recently updated standard.
 - 5.3 Compare against regional standards from neighbouring authorities.
 - 5.4 Compare against any emerging local authority policies to check whether revised standards are needed (eg to change travel habits).
 - 5.5 Review problems and assess whether recent changes would overcome them, if not, put forward other possible solutions.
- 6 Put forward draft proposals.
 - 6.1 Discuss working group's draft proposals with other officers to check whether they would overcome problems, are practicable solutions, and are implementable.
 - 6.2 Revise if necessary and recheck.
 - 6.3 Discuss with Elected Member Group to check whether proposals meet policy objectives.
- 7 Final report on recommendations.
- 8 Prepare final draft document.
- 9 Present to Roads Committee to seek approval of draft.
- 10 Publish document for distribution.