

Agenda Item No

Report No 819/99

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE
ROADS COMMITTEE26 AUGUST 1999
26 AUGUST 1999

SUBJECT: ANGUS INTERIM LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

JOINT REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT AND DIRECTOR OF
ROADS

Abstract: This Report advises members of the preparation of a draft Interim Local Transport Strategy for Angus and outlines steps taken and future action proposed for agreement by the respective Committees

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

1. note and agree the terms and content of the draft Interim Local Transport Strategy for Angus as circulated along with this Report;
2. note that, following agreement by the respective Conveners, a copy of the draft document has previously been forwarded to the Scottish Executive as the Council's draft submission pending consideration and agreement by members;
3. agree that the document be finalised for publication and that arrangements for suitable consultation on the Interim Strategy document be undertaken;
4. agree that a further report be prepared in due course for consideration and agreement by members outlining consultation on the Interim Strategy and relevant issues arising for the preparation of a full Local Transport Strategy for Angus.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The terms of preliminary guidance on the preparation of Local Transport Strategies issued by the Scottish Office were reported to members on 11 March 1999 (Report 277/99 refers). As agreed by the Committees a draft Interim Local Transport Strategy for Angus has now been prepared (copy circulated with Committee papers) involving a collaborative effort among several Departments of the Council.
- 2.2 In order to meet the short timescale requested by the Scottish Office, with an invitation to produce interim strategies by 30 July 1999, the draft Interim Strategy document has been submitted to the Scottish Executive in advance of and subject to consideration by the Committees. The draft status of the document at this stage has been highlighted to the Scottish Executive.

3 SCOPE OF INTERIM STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Interim Strategy is the first step in preparing a full Local Transport Strategy for Angus by July 2000. The Interim Strategy document draws together various existing policies and initiatives of the Council and identifies key transport objectives. It also develops a broad vision and aims for tackling problems and opportunities in Angus building on the need for Sustainable Transport, Integrated Transport, and Inclusive Transport.
- 3.2 The emphasis in the Interim Strategy Document is on developing measures to enhance accessibility, while also providing alternatives to the further spread of car dependence, by encouraging more use of walking, cycling and public transport for a wide variety of journeys. This will require continuing commitment to a balanced strategy which recognises the role of all forms of transport, including the private car, and which promotes the close alignment of transport, land use, environmental and economic policies in Angus.
- 3.3 The Local Transport Strategy will help shape transport and transport policy in Angus into the next century. The challenge is to provide the proper balance of transport infrastructure which achieves local solutions to local problems while also addressing wider strategic concerns.

4 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 In the limited timescale available to develop an Interim Strategy it has not been possible to consult the wide range of authorities, agencies, operators, businesses, community groups and individuals with a potential interest. Consultation and dialogue, building on ongoing liaison on various transport and transport related matters, will therefore be an important part of developing a full strategy.
- 4.2 The Government are continuing to publish a series of follow-up documents to the Scottish Integrated Transport White Paper, including a recently launched consultation paper on Tackling Congestion. Developing a full Local Transport Strategy for Angus will therefore also require consideration of further emerging guidance alongside detailed work on the preparation of an Action Programme including relevant targets and performance indicators.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Preparation of a Local Transport Strategy for Angus is a significant new burden. To date work on the Interim Strategy has been undertaken wholly in-house through the commitment of staff resources mainly from the Planning & Transport Department and Roads Department.
- 5.2 Progressing the next steps indicated in Section 4 above will require continued staff commitment, together with provision for public consultation. While these elements can be generally contained within approved budgets, there may be the need for specialist consultancy work and advice particularly in relation to the Road Traffic Reduction Act requirements and in developing an Action Programme including targets and indicators.

- 5.3 At this stage it is suggested that the Committees note the position subject to progress on the preparation of the full Local Transport Strategy.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law & Administration, Director of Environmental & Consumer Protection, and Director of Social Work have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The draft Interim Local Transport Strategy sets out Angus Council's commitment to sustainable, integrated transport which promotes social inclusion. Considerable progress has already been made, as reflected in current policies and initiatives of the Council, and the Interim Strategy builds on this to further develop relevant measures in Angus.
- 7.2 The next steps include engaging in wide dialogue and consultation on the Interim Strategy and developing a full strategy, including an expanded programme of projects and proposals as part of an integrated package.

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.

AA/CGR/KW
16 August 1999

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