

ANGUS COUNCIL

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE
ROADS COMMITTEE**

**24 JANUARY 2002
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SUBJECT: NORTHWATER VIADUCT CYCLEWAY

**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT and
ACTING DIRECTOR OF ROADS**

Abstract: This report advises the Committee on the current position regarding the proposed cycleway at Northwater Viaduct and recommends that it be incorporated within the programme of projects to be funded through the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Fund.

1 RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the Planning and Transport Policy Committee and the Roads Committee:-
 - (a) agree to the proposed cycleway/footpath at Northwater Viaduct being included in year 2 of the programme of projects being funded through the Cycling; Walking and Safer Streets Fund;
 - (b) agree to the proposed cycleway past the Saltire Sports Centre, Arbroath being brought forward to the current financial year.
2. It is recommended that the Planning and Transport Policy Committee agree that the allocation of £30,000 within the Planning and Transport Financial Plan for 2001/02 for the cycleway at Northwater Viaduct be re-allocated to the cycleway at the Saltire Sports Centre, Arbroath as outlined in this report, and
3. It is recommended that the Roads Committee agree that the allocation of £10,000 within the Roads Financial Plan for 2001/02 for the cycleway past Northwater Viaduct be re-allocated to the cycleway past the Saltire Sports Centre, Arbroath as outlined in this report.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members may recall that the lowest tender for the provision of the cycleway/footpath at Northwater Viaduct was accepted by the Roads Committee at its meeting on 25 January 2001 (Report No. 11/01 refers). However, formal acceptance of the lowest tender was not issued as the project was put on hold due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

3 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Once restrictions on access due to the foot and mouth epidemic were lifted, contact was re-established with the landowners over whose land the proposed cycleway would run. Ownership of the land immediately to the south of the viaduct has

changed and, although the new owners are willing to continue negotiations with the Council, these are becoming increasingly protracted.

- 3.2 More recently, the former airfield at Broomfield, Montrose through which the cycleway would also run has been put on the open market for sale. This has delayed concluding an Access Agreement over this section. The end result is that this project will not now proceed during the current financial year, necessitating the re-allocation of the funds within the Planning and Transport and Roads Financial Plan 2001/02 (£30,000 and £10,000 respectively).

4 RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 4.1 The Cycling Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) Fund was established to help local authorities carry out cycling, walking and safer streets projects. This is a three year programme, commencing in the current financial year (year 1). It is up to local authorities to determine which projects are implemented through this fund and to submit details of each year's programme to the Scottish Executive Development Department.
- 4.2 In view of the flexibility within the CWSS Fund, it is recommended that the proposed cycleway at Northwater Viaduct now be included in year 2 of the programme of projects (2002/03). However, in order to ensure that the ring-fenced allocation for year 2 (£84,000) is not exceeded, it is recommended that one of the projects in the programme; namely the provision of a cycleway past the Saltire Sports Centre, Arbroath, be brought forward to the current financial year. This project would be funded from the allocations within the Planning and Transport and Roads Financial Plans for the current year.
- 4.3 The Scottish Executive Development Department has confirmed verbally that this would be acceptable.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The estimated cost of the cycleway at Northwater Viaduct is £90,000. The allocations in the Financial Plan are:-

Contributions	Total Cost £000's	2000/01 £000's	2001/02 £000's	2002/03 £000's
Planning and Transport Capital	40	10	30	
Roads Capital	15		10	5
Angus Environmental Trust	25		25	
NoSWA	10		10	
Total	90	10	75	5

- 5.2 Both the Angus Environmental Trust and NoSWA have agreed that their contributions to the project could be moved to the 2002/03 financial year.

- 5.3 The estimated cost of the cycleway past the Saltire Sports Centre is £40,000 inclusive of fees. This cost and the associated fees could therefore be met from the Planning and Transport and Roads allocations for the current financial year.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law and Administration and Director of Recreation Services have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Rail Property Ltd has undertaken extensive repairs to the Northwater Viaduct over a period of years and Sustrans Ltd has now agreed in principle to take over ownership of the viaduct. Negotiations have also been ongoing with the adjoining landowners for some time regarding the provision of the cycleway link. Once constructed, the cycleway link would become part of the Sustrans National Cycle Network and the North Sea Cycle Route. It is important therefore that the funding for this project is not lost and its incorporation into the CWSS Fund programme and the re-allocation of the current year's funds to another cycling project is the most appropriate means of achieving this.

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/RM/SC
15 January 2002

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