ANGUS COUNCIL
PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE
ROADS COMMITTEE
14 JUNE 2001
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SUBJECT: CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS FUND

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

Abstract: This report advises the Committee of a fund which has been established by the Scottish Executive in respect of cycling, walking and safer streets projects.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. note that a fund has been established for cycling, walking and safer streets projects, to operate within the Public Transport Fund,

2. authorise the Director of Planning & Transport and the Director of Roads to draw up a draft list of proposed CWSS projects for 2000/3 in consultation with their respective Conveners for submission to the Development Department by 6 August 2001, subject to ratification by the Committee at its meeting on 23 August 2001; and

3. await a further report on the recommended programmes of works to which this fund could be allocated.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Scottish Executive Development Department has recently issued Circular No. 3/2001 which provides guidance on competitive bids for allocations from the Public Transport Fund. This circular also identifies a new separate fund which has been established for cycling, walking and safer streets (CWSS) projects.

3 CWSS FUND

3.1 The CWSS Fund has been established to help local authorities carry out cycling, walking and safer streets projects in pursuance of the aims and objectives of their Local Transport Strategies. The fund will operate within the Public Transport Fund but local authorities will not have to compete with each other for resources. Rather, each authority will receive a ring-fenced allocation for the financial years 2002/3 and 2003/4 (see para. 3.4 below).

3.2 Authorities will be required to submit a programme of works that they propose to carry out to the Development Department. Once satisfied that these works are for CWSS projects, the Department will release the capital allocation. Authorities will be required to report on the CWSS projects funded from their allocation at the end of each financial year.
3.3 The Development Department has also now advised Councils that they will be receiving additional capital consent for cycling, walking and safer streets projects for the current financial year. Again, it is up to each Council to decide which projects it wishes to implement and to advise the Department accordingly. However, the Department will not be formally approving individual projects and work can commence as soon as Councils wish. Suitable projects might include traffic calmed 20 mph zones; provision of cycle lanes and pedestrian footpaths; installation of crossings for pedestrians and cyclists; traffic free entrances to schools; provision of secure cycle storage and locker facilities at schools and elsewhere.

3.4 The ring-fenced allocations for Angus are £65,000 for the current financial year, £84,000 for 2002/3 and £175,000 for 2003/4.

4 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

4.1 It will be necessary to prepare a programme of proposed CWSS projects for implementation during the current financial year and advise the Development Department accordingly. It is intended that this is done over the forthcoming months with a view to a recommended list of projects being presented to the Committee on 23 August 2001.

4.2 However, the Development Department has advised the Council that, for proposed CWSS projects commencing in 2002/3, they require details of how the projects meet the authority's strategic transport objective as contained in the Local Transport Strategy, a summary of the proposed projects and costings and any relevant phasing. This information is to be forwarded to the Department no later than Monday 6 August 2001. The aim is to notify authorities that their projects are suitable for CWSS allocation by the end of October 2001, thus allowing formal Section 94 consent to be issued in the normal way in 2002/3.

4.3 It has not been possible in the time available to compile this information for consideration at this Committee meeting. It is therefore recommended that the Director of Planning & Transport and the Director of Roads be authorised to draw up a draft list of proposed projects for 2002/3 in consultation with their respective Conveners for submission to the Development Department by 6 August 2001 subject to ratification by the Committee at its meeting on 23 August 2001. The Development Department has confirmed that this is acceptable.

4.4 It may be necessary to undertake some preliminary feasibility/design work during the preparation of the proposed programmes for both the current and next financial years. It is anticipated however that any associated costs can be met from the ring-fenced allocations.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications directly as a result of this report. There may of course be financial implications on the Council resulting from the proposed programmes of projects but these will be considered in the report to the Committee in August.
6 CONSULTATION

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

7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 The establishment of a separate fund for cycling, walking and safer streets projects within the Public Transport Fund will greatly assist the Council in promoting walking and cycling and is welcomed.

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/IAL
4 June 2001

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