

 <b>REPORT TO EXECUTIVE</b>	
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA: INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT</b>	
Date of Meeting:	7TH JULY 2003
Public	
Key Decision:	Yes
Recorded in Forward Plan:	Yes
Inside Policy Framework	

**Title:** TRANSPORT PRIORITIES FOR CARLISLE  
**Report of:** HEAD OF COMMERCIAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES  
**Report reference:** CTS 16/03

### Summary:

The report sets out a range of transport priorities for consideration/support from which action plans to lobby for their delivery can be developed.

### Recommendations:

It is **recommended** that the Regional and Local Transport priorities for Carlisle are agreed and that Council Officers and the Portfolio Holder develop an action plan to lobby for/progress these.

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## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1.0 The Council wishes to fulfil an active role in pursuing transport improvements both within and to/from the area. Whilst not a Transport Authority, good and sustainable transport links and access is a key ingredient of delivering corporate objectives. Feedback has been provided by

DAG members on transport priorities and several meetings have been held with the Chamber of Commerce to embrace their views. This report is being considered by the Infrastructure Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

1.2 The objective of this process is to identify and agree priorities for Carlisle and to then develop an action plan to seek their delivery.

## **Regional/Sub-Regional issues**

1.3 Feedback identifies two main categories, one for regional transport issues and one for local issues although invariably these overlap. In recent years the City Council, the other Cumbrian Districts and County Council were all committed to one strategy where priorities included improvements to A66 east of Penrith and A590. This is in the process of being updated with the Cumbria Strategic Partnership having recently established a sub-group to take on this task. It is therefore an opportune time for the Council to take stock.

1.4 The priorities which are emerging are:-

- Carlisle Airport – the establishment of scheduled passenger services, freight and associated services.
- Carlisle Northern Development Route – the outcome of the public enquiry has substantially endorsed proposals and whilst approval in principle has been given the PFI business case is being updated. An advert for expressions of interest in OJEC is expected shortly.
- M6 Extension/Route Management Strategy – the construction of a dual 3 lane motorway and associated All Purpose Route between Carlisle and Gretna is currently being planned. Subject to the relevant approval this should be completed by 2008/09. The RMS addressed a range of issues but a key element for this area is to increase the junction capacity at 43 and 44.
- Upgrading of A69 – this is the key east – west road link for the area and forms part of the Trans-European road network. A range of improvements have been completed mainly in Northumberland and the by-pass at Haydon Bridge is planned.
- West Coast Main Line – to continue with the upgrading programme.
- Strengthen Regional Rail Link
- Freight Rail Link Into Kingmoor Park

## **Local Issues**

1.5 These should be addressed within the Local Transport Plan, but following some progress in the south of the City subsequent progress has been minimal and initial projects changed. Priorities are seen to be:-

- The establishment of an affective modal interchange in the City Centre based on Citadel Station/a bus station
- Car parking capacity and demand linked to development pressures on

- existing city centre car parks
  - The detailed appraisal and implementation of Park & Ride. The possible introduction of a pilot scheme over the Christmas period.
  - The effective co-ordination and management of existing traffic signals (utilising the SCOOT system)
  - Completion of the Inner Ring Road network, primarily through junction improvements
  - More effective linkage of cycle measures to concentrate on a whole route rather than piecemeal basis
  - Improved bus links between residential areas, particularly in the south of the City and employment areas, primarily in the north.
  - Major employers to develop and implement a green commuter plan
6. The next stage would be for further discussion and consultation with key players and to develop an action plan to progress these priorities. The Council has allocated £20,000 in the current financial year. It is proposed to use this to both collect evidence to support lobbying activities, to pump prime initiatives like an experimental Park and Ride scheme at Christmas, and to explore and learn from best practice elsewhere. The detailed programme will be agreed in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder.

## 1. CONSULTATION

1. Consultation to Date. Development Advisory Group, Overview & Scrutiny Infrastructure Committee, Chamber of Commerce.
2. Consultation proposed. Cumbria County Council, Local Strategic Partnership, Chamber of Commerce, other relevant partners.

## 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is **recommended** that the Regional and Local Transport priorities for Carlisle are agreed and that Council Officers and the Portfolio Holder develop an action plan to lobby for/progress these.

## 2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To enable City Vision and Corporate Plan objectives to be achieved by providing effective access to and within Carlisle and to develop real transport choices.

## 3. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Existing staff, possible use of specialist consultants.
- Financial – Budget of £20,000 allocated for 2003/4.
- Legal – N/A
- Corporate – The Development Advisory Group has contributed to and endorsed the priorities.

- Risk Management – The main risk is that the allocation of resources and budget may not achieve the delivery of the priorities. It is considered that this is fully offset by the benefit which will be delivered if progress is achieved on any of these.
- Equality Issues – Embraced within action plan.
- Environmental – " " " "
- Crime and Disorder – " " " "

**M Battersby**

Head of Commercial & Technical Services

12<sup>th</sup> June 2003