

**REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
15 NOVEMBER 2000**

SUBJECT: KEITH BYPASS

BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to consider the latest information received from the Scottish Executive on the Keith Bypass.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the 1997 moratorium on trunk road schemes, the Scottish Executive published its proposals for future trunk road improvements in November 1999 in the document titled "Travel Choices for Scotland: Strategic Roads Review".

This document identified that over the next three years only five schemes in Scotland would proceed to construction, the only one in this area being the A96 Fochabers-Mosstodloch Bypass.

- 2.2 The document also reported that the Keith Bypass had insufficient benefits to justify proceeding any further due to financial and environmental costs. The Executive did, however, recognise the difficulties experienced by members of the community wishing to cross the trunk road and did agree to look into promoting a traffic calming scheme to reduce excessive vehicle speeds and provide priority for pedestrians on the A96 through Keith.
- 2.3 Correspondence was received from the Scottish Executive last month formally confirming the above statements and also advising the Council that the draft Orders published in 1992 which were subject to a public local enquiry in May 1993, should be regarded as being withdrawn. The draft Orders relate to the A96 Trunk Road (Keith Bypass) Order and the A96 Trunk Road (Keith Bypass) (Side Roads) Order.
- 2.4 This statement has the effect of leaving Keith now with no bypass line.

3. **The Proposals**

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the terms of this latest correspondence from the Scottish Executive and to consider the response from the Council.
- 3.2 Members should also note that the Trunk Road Management Agent has advised the Head of Direct Services that the traffic calming proposals on the A96 through Keith, which were the subject of local consultation earlier this year, have been subject to tender and a commencement date is currently awaited from the Scottish Executive. It is probable that a start will be made before the end of the current calendar year.

4. **Financial, Staffing and Environmental Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial, staffing or environmental implications as a result of this report.
- 4.2 The traffic calming proposals with enhanced pedestrian crossing opportunities will improve the physical environment for pedestrian movements in Keith where residential areas and commercial or other facilities are bisected by the trunk road.

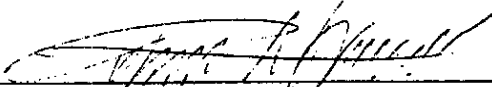
5. **Consultations**

- 5.1 Councillors Watt, Gorn and Paul, as local Members, have been provided with a copy of the correspondence received from the Scottish Executive.
- 5.2 The Head of Development Services and the Principal Solicitor (Commercial and Conveyancing) have been consulted and their comments included in this report.

6. **Recommendations**

- 6.1 **It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of the correspondence from the Scottish Executive and consider the terms of the reply to be sent.**

Author of Report: Head of Direct Services
Background Papers: None
Ref: AR/PA/R/21/A96/51

Signature:  _____

Designation: Director of Environmental Services

Name: Robert A Stewart