

**REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 29 AUGUST 2006**

**SUBJECT: ELGIN TRANSPORT MODELS – PROGRESS PRESENTATION**

**BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide background information and an update relating to the preparation of the Elgin Transport Models.
- 1.2 There will be a presentation highlighting; the findings of a range of surveys including the roadside interviews, the preparation of the AM Peak, PM Peak and Saturday Peak Models and the use of the Elgin Transport Model to support the Elgin STAG Part 2 Appraisal. The presentation will be followed by a Question and Answer session.
- 1.3 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D(13) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the function of the Council as Roads Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 The Committee is invited to note:-**

- (i) **the progress of the development of the Elgin Transport Models;  
and**
- (ii) **the role of the Elgin Transport Models to support the STAG Study Task and the possible future uses of the Elgin Transport Models**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Procurement of the Transportation Professional Services Call-off Term Contract, including the Elgin Transport Model and STAG Study tasks, was carried out in accordance with EU Procurement Regulations and Halcrow was formally appointed in February 2006. Through this procurement process the VISSIM modelling package was selected. VISSIM is a German system used in 70 countries (VISSIM stands for "Verkehr in Stadten Simulation" – traffic in cities simulation). Moray Council and Highland Council are using this system for Elgin and Inverness.

- 3.2 It was agreed at the Environmental Services Special Committee on 15 June (para 4 of the Minute refers) to arrange a presentation on the Elgin Transport Models to a future Committee.
- 3.3 The Consultant will provide three Base models: AM Peak, PM Peak and Saturday Peak. These models will be used to create Scenario models for the STAG Study options. The number and complexity of the Scenario models is discussed in the report to the Environmental Services Committee on 30 August 2006. Halcrow will show the progress that has been made with the preparation of the three Base models and also highlight the role of the Elgin Transport Models to support the STAG Study task. In addition the visual presentation and other capabilities of the VISSIM modelling package will be shown to Committee.
- 3.4 Members are advised that their familiarisation with the information which will be contained in this presentation will assist their consideration of the forthcoming report on cost and programme considerations for the STAG Study that will be reported to the next meeting of this Committee on 30 August.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan**

This report contributes to:

CDP Environmental Programme 4 Transport

CDP Environmental Programme 5 Development Plan

SIP 5 Working with the community to plan for the future

**(b) Policy and Legal**

The Elgin Transport Models will be used to support the STAG Part 2 Appraisal. The final outcome of the Elgin STAG Part 2 may precipitate modification to the Moray Development Plan prior to the Public Inquiry (Para 2.3 of the 'Moray Local Plan Review: Consultative Draft' Report to the Environmental Services Special Committee on 15 June 2006 refers).

**(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

The funding for the preparation of the three Base models is approved and accounted for in the Elgin Car Parking and Traffic Management budget. A limited number of additional Scenario models, based upon the original task brief, is approved and accounted for in the above budget. The Environmental Services Committee was advised on 15 June that widening the scope of the brief or the STAG task has consequences for the delivery schedule and costs. The cost and programme implications for the STAG Study will be reported to the Environmental Services Committee on 30 August.

**(d) Consultations**

The Planning & Development Manager, the Principal Accountant, the Principal Solicitor (Commercial and Conveyancing) and the Head of Direct Services have been consulted. Their comments have been incorporated within this report.

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Environmental Services Committee (15 June para 4 of the minute refers) approved holding a meeting for a presentation on the Elgin Transport Models.**
- 5.2 Transportation officials and Halcrow Consultants will provide a presentation to Committee. The findings from a range of surveys, the building of the Elgin Transport Models and information on the supporting role for the Elgin STAG Study task will be covered in the presentation. The presentation will be followed by a Question and Answer session.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: GRH/RG/PA/R/66/24/1