

**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 17 JUNE 2008**

**SUBJECT: CAPITAL PLAN 2008/2009 - ROAD SAFETY AND CYCLING WALKING AND SAFER STREETS SCHEMES**

**BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to approve the list of Road Safety and Cycling Walking and Safer Streets scheme to be funded from the **2008/2009 capital plan** as described below.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the functions of the Council as Roads Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Committee is asked to approve for funding from the appropriate Capital allocation in financial year 2008/2009:**
- the schemes identified in Appendix 1 to improve Road Safety.
  - the schemes identified in Appendix 2 as Cycling Walking and Safer Streets projects

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Reference is made to the Minute of Full Council on 14 May 2008 (para. 17 of the draft minute refers) which approved the Capital Plan, including a sum of £120,000 for road safety schemes. A carry forward of £43,000 has also been identified. (This is due to be reported to Full Council on 2 July 2008) from financial year 2007/8 giving a total of £163,000. The list of proposed schemes is contained in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 These schemes are primarily ongoing works to improve safety on Moray's road network. The predominance of rural accidents has concentrated the expenditure in this item on rural roads in recent years. It is proposed to continue this trend and the allocation is broken down into areas of expenditure to help identify where the main problem issues are. Some schemes have been carried forward from previous years' approved schemes.

- 3.3 Reference is also made to a sum of £154,000 approved for Cycling Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) schemes (para. 17 of the draft minute of Full Council on 14 May 2008 refers). It should be noted that at this date we have not received the Offer of Grant Letter from the Scottish Government, however the sum of £154,000 has been indicated in the Concordat and as part of the Single Outcome Agreement. Although the formal letter has not been received it has been indicated to us that the conditions for expenditure of the Grant will be similar as that previously, but is likely that the emphasis will be on active travel rather than traffic calming type schemes. No monies can be carried forward to future financial years.
- 3.4 The report to Full Council on 14 May 2008 indicated a split of the CWSS grant of £100,000 for Safer Routes to Schools schemes and £54,000 on Footpath/cycleway provision. However in light of the likely conditions attached to the Grant offer this split is unlikely to be acceptable. The list of proposed schemes is contained in **Appendix 2**.
- 3.5 Two further schemes have been requested by Ward members namely
- Provision of an adjacent footbridge at Charlotte Street bridge Fochabers. This is not supported by officers as an alternative solution of closing the bridge to traffic would achieve a safer solution. In addition the amount of traffic using the bridge can easily be accommodated by the bridges at West Street and East Street/Ordiequish Road. The cost of the requested scheme is approximately £40,000 whereas the cost of the previously proposed closure of the bridge would be in the order of £2,000
  - Provision of a raised table junction on the Gordonstoun Road, Duffus at its junction with Burnside Road has been requested, but there is already a planning condition requiring a developer to make improvements at this junction as part of an existing planning consent. Until the outcome of the developers submission is known then to programme this work to be done from Council budgets would be pre-emptive.
- 3.6 **Appendix 3** contains a detailed description of the schemes identified in Appendices 1 & 2.

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

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

The report encompasses the main aims of the Economic Development programme by maintaining suitable transport facilities and infrastructure for residents, visitors, businesses and workers.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

This proposal complied with the requirements of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

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

The total cost of providing for these two budget items is £317,000. Most of the individual schemes are £30,000 or less however there is one specific scheme which exceed this amount, but does not exceed £100,000.

There are no staffing or property implications from this report.

**(d) Consultations**

Grampian Police have been involved in discussions with Roads Officers in preparation of this report. However any additional comments they may have will be tabled at the meeting.

Lorraine Paisey, Principal Accountant, has been consulted on this report and is in agreement with the financial implications of the report.

Aileen Scott, Principal Solicitor (Commercial and Conveyancing) has been consulted and agrees with the legal implications of this report.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 Committee is asked to approve the list of Road Safety and Cycling Walking and Safer Streets schemes to be funded from the 2008/2009 capital plan as described in the Appendices.**

Author of Report: Elaine Penny, Engineer (Traffic)  
Background Papers: None  
Ref: GRH/EMP/PA

**Appendix 1****List of proposed Road Safety Schemes**

Route Accident Reduction Plans – (A roads throughout Moray)	£6,000
Route Accident Reduction Plans – (B roads throughout Moray)	£5,000
Lining and signing improvements on C and U roads throughout Moray	£5,000
Rolling programme of signing Bridge Parapets within verges	£5,000
Visibility improvements C21e / U37e / U34e Pitgaveny Crossroads	£15,000
Road Safety improvement West Beach Lossiemouth	£30,000
Pedestrian Crossings High Street Forres – Replacement Pelican/puffin High Street Elgin – Pedestrian improvements	£25,000
Flood Warning signs in Rothes	£10,000
Production of Road Safety Plan 2008-2010 including Strategic Environmental assessment	£20,000
Completion of 20mph / Safer Routes to Schools Schemes started in financial year 2007/8, including introduction of the approved 20mph limits around schools.	£22,000
Rural School Vehicle activated warning signs (Alves and Mosstowie)	£10,000
Road Safety measures which are identified for urgent action during the financial year.	£10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£163,000</b>

**Appendix 2****List of proposed Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Schemes**

Cycle shelters at schools	£20,000
Cycling provision	£20,000
Footpath / footway improvements	£20,000
Completion of schemes started last financial year – North Street, Forres, Lossiemouth Road Elgin Toucan, Glover Street, Elgin	£5,000
Findhorn – Build Out	£9,000
Portgordon school steps reconstruction to adoptable standard	£55,000
Pedestrian Refuge Islands	
Cullen – Seafeld Street including build outs	£15,000
Elgin - Pansport Road including additional waiting restrictions	£10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£154,000</b>

**Appendix 3**

**Description of proposed Schemes from Appendix 1 and 2**

**Route Accident Reduction Plans – “A” road throughout Moray**

Origin Based on accident records and damage to property it is recognised that a consistent approach in the way features like bends and junctions are highlighted on a route is important.

Proposal This proposal is the next phase in a rolling programme of measures to improve, and make consistent, signing and markings, on routes, prioritised according to existing accident records.

**Route Accident Reduction Plans – “B” road throughout Moray**

Origin Based on accident records and damage to property it is recognised that a consistent approach in the way features like bends and junctions are highlighted on a route is important.

Proposal This proposal is a rolling programme of measures to improve, and make consistent, signing and markings, on routes, prioritised according to existing accident records.

**Lining and signing and “C” and “U” roads throughout Moray**

Origin Based on accident records and damage to property it is recognised that new or revised signing and lining arrangements may be required. On C and U roads it is generally not appropriate to consider the whole route as the traffic volumes are generally low

Proposal This proposal is a rolling programme of measures to improve, consistent, signing and markings, on routes, prioritised according to existing accident records.

**Rolling programme of signing bridge parapets within verges**

Origin It is proposed that this funding be used to highlight narrow bridges which have been damaged by vehicles on a regular basis.

Proposal To erect appropriate signing at bridges.

**Visibility improvements – Pitgaveny Crossroads**

Origin Identified from inspections and accident records. This particular location is a known accident site.

Proposal To move fencelines / walls and carry out earthworks / vegetation removal to improve visibility from the side roads.

### **Pedestrian Crossings**

Origin Existing pedestrian crossings which have reached the end of their maintainable life.

Proposal This proposal is to replace the remaining 2 old pedestrian crossings in Forres High Street and to remove the pelican crossing in Elgin High Street make pedestrian improvements. The equipment to replace the Forres Crossings was purchased last year and is awaiting installation in conjunction with other works in the High Street.

### **Flood warning signs in Rothes**

Origin Request by Ward councillor

Proposal This proposal is to erect 2 no variable warning signs at a location in Rothes High Street to protect properties affected by flash flooding.

### **Production of Road Safety Plan 2008-2010**

Origin Statutory duty

Proposal The current road safety plan ran out in 2007. This is the fourth Road Safety Plan for Moray and this is to fund the production and statutory consultations required .

### **Completion of 20mph / Safer Routes to Schools Schemes**

Origin 20 mph limits at eight schools have been approved at Environmental Services Committee on 10 October 2007 (para 28 of the minute refers)  
Completion of Buckie High / Cluny Primary Traffic calming

Proposal To erect signs to indicate the new speed limits.  
Minor alterations to lining in conjunction with the traffic calming scheme.

### **Rural School Vehicle Activated warning signs**

Origin Alves and Mosstowie Primary Schools have been identified as having a need for a vehicle activated warning sign installed when approaching from the rural side of the schools.

Proposal To erect vehicle activated warning signs

### **Road Safety measures which are identified for urgent action during the financial year.**

**Origin** It is proposed that this funding be reserved for road safety hazards which arise unexpectedly during this financial year. It will also fund any small schemes which require very minor improvements, for example warning signs, chevron signs and road markings; and the promotion of traffic regulation orders for road safety reasons. Any remaining funding will be used to start schemes from the reserve list.

### **Cycling shelters at schools**

**Origin** Requests from various schools to encourage cycling through the School Travel Plans

**Proposal** It is proposed to implement a rolling programme of providing cycle shelters where required to encourage cycling to schools.

### **Cycling provision**

**Origin** Provision of new facilities for cyclists

**Proposal** It is proposed to provide additional cycle facilities where required to encourage cycling. In particular, completion of the cycleway into Cummington, amendments to the verge/cycleway surrounding the new Toucan crossing of Lossiemouth Road, Elgin, and additional works required in conjunction with the Lossie Wynd, Elgin Cycleway and Toucan Crossing of A96 (which will be funded by the Scottish Government)

### **Footpath / footway improvements**

**Origin** Requests have been received for a number of footpath / footway improvements both in settlements and in the rural locations.

**Proposal** It is proposed to prioritise the request based on engineering assessment and introduce a rolling programme.

### **Findhorn – Build Out**

**Origin** Identified as a problem location for traffic in Findhorn

**Proposal** Build out to highlight the one-way system in Findhorn.

### **Portgordon School Steps**

**Origin** The steps at rear of Portgordon Primary provide a vital pedestrian link from the School and Richmond Place to Post Office Brae near Duke Street. The current steps are in poor repair and are not adopted. An alternative of providing a footway along Post Office Brae would be impracticable and more expensive.

**Proposal** Replace steps with ones which are Disability Discrimination Act compliant and to an adoptable standard.

**Pedestrian Refuge Islands**

Origin Many requests have been received for pedestrian crossing facilities in Cullen and on Pansport Road, Elgin

Proposal Introduce improved crossing facilities for pedestrians  
Cullen will require build outs on either side of Seafield Street to give pedestrians adequate visibility and reduction in crossing width.