

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development
to Cabinet
of 23 April 2024**

**Subject: Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2)
Publication**

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Transport Scotland's second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) publication.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

2.1.1 notes the publication of the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2;

2.1.2 commits to funding a STAG on the A77 or a joint STAG on the A75 and A77 with Dumfries and Galloway Council; and

2.1.3 otherwise notes the contents of the report.

3. Background

3.1 In 2019, Transport Scotland, the national transport agency of the Scottish Government, commenced the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2), the first review having been published in 2008. STPR2 will help deliver the vision, priorities and outcomes that are set out in the second National Transport Strategy. This review of the strategic transport network's performance will inform transport investment in Scotland for the next 20 years (2022-2042) by providing evidence-based recommendations on which Scottish Ministers can base future transport investment decisions. STPR2 considers the transport needs of Scotland's people and communities, and examines active travel (walking, wheeling, cycling), bus, ferry, rail and motorways and trunk roads as well as passenger and freight access to major ports and airports. These needs are reviewed from national and regional perspectives to reflect their different geographies, travel patterns and demands. Cabinet was provided an update on STPR2 on 15 February 2023.

3.2 A previous report on STPR2 was submitted to Cabinet on 15 February 2023 which provide detail on the finalised STPR2 report and regional recommendations.

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4. Proposals

- 4.1 The STPR2 process follows Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG), an established evidence-based approach to identify problems and opportunities, set transport objectives to address these and generate, sift and appraise options for changes to the transport system. A full list of options that were sifted out across all regions and at a national level is provided as an Appendix to the National Case for Change. Following the sifting exercise 138 options specific to the Ayrshire and Arran Region were retained for further appraisal and can be found here (pages 48 – 65), The 105 options sifted out in the Ayrshire and Arran and Transport Scotland's rationale for sifting them out are shown here (pages 71 – 87). To date Transport Scotland have not provided a programme nor have they committed any funding to carry out any of the projects shifted in.
- 4.2 The Ayrshire Roads Alliance in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council and Mid and East Antrim Council produced a Strategic and Economic Impact Assessment report (S&EIA) for both the A75 and A77 corridors, the outcomes from this report detailed the economic benefits to significant investment in both the A75 and A77. In the period since the publication of both the STPR2 and the S&EIA the UK government has committed significant funding to Dumfries and Galloway Council to progress upgrades to the A75, despite this Dumfries and Galloway Council remain committed to working in partnership with SAC to secure investment in both the A75 and the A77.
- 4.3 To take this work forward the partnership should be continued and that a STAG specific to the A75 and A77 be carried out, this STAG will combine the previous work carried out by STPR2 and the S&EIA and develop these further to provide evidence based priority outcomes to improve both the A75 and A77 from a transport perspective. Once complete the STAG and S&EIA will form the base data for an Outline Business Case (OBC) and subsequent Full Business Case (FBC).

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 South Ayrshire Council would be required to provide 100% funding to complete the STAG on the A77 or 50% funding to a joint STAG with Dumfries and Galloway Council on the A75 and A77.

7. Human Resources Implications

- 7.1 Should funding be made available to carry out the proposed STAG and subsequent OBC and FBC these will have a staff resource implication for ARA.

8. Risk

8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations*

- 8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 **Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations**

8.2.1 There are no risks associated with the rejection of the recommendations

9. **Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

10. **Sustainable Development Implications**

10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. **Options Appraisal**

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. **Link to Council Plan**

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Commitment 4 of the Council Plan: South Ayrshire Works/ Make the most of the local economy.

13. **Results of Consultation**

13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.

13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Bob Pollock, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

14. **Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes**

14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Director of Housing, Operations and Development will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Carry out STAG on both A75 and A77 in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council	March 2025	Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance

Background Papers All STPR2 documents can be found on the Transport Scotland website: [Strategic Transport Projects Review 2](#)

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Date: 11 April 2024

Appendix 1



South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

1. Policy details

Policy Title	STPR2 Update
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	David Manson Special Projects Officer - David.Manson@ayrshireroadsalliance.org

2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	No	Yes
Disability	No	Yes
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	No	Yes
Marriage or Civil Partnership	No	Yes
Pregnancy and Maternity	No	Yes
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	No	Yes
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	No	Yes
Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	No	Yes

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Sexual Orientation – person’s sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	No	Yes
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children’s Rights	No	Yes

3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	No	Yes
Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet Basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	No	Yes
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	No	Yes
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	No	Yes
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent’s education, employment and income	No	Yes

4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the ‘Three Key Needs’ of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Low
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

5. Summary Assessment

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as Medium and/or High)	YES NO
Rationale for decision: There are no negative implications associated with this paper – this paper is provided for the purposes of scrutiny. All objectives shall be applied to ensure equality in approach and inclusion.	
Signed: David Manson Date: 9 March 2024	Special Projects Officer