

ROADS RESURFACING SCRUTINY REVIEW

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Roads resurfacing was the second scrutiny review carried out as per the 2018/19 scrutiny plan agreed by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on the 19 June 2018.
- 1.2 The roads resurfacing scrutiny panel comprised of Martin Caldwell (chair), Councillor Freeman and Councillor Trail with support provided by internal audit officers.
- 1.3 Roads resurfacing was chosen for inclusion in our scrutiny priorities for 2018/19 in light of queries regarding whether the Council is prioritising maintenance of roads in an amber condition over red, whether other types of road surfacing or technical approaches should be considered and whether additional technical data and alternative approaches to decision making could be used to prioritise work.
- 1.4 Road condition is measured by the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey which provides an indication of the residual life of the road. The Road Condition Index values for each 10m length of road can be summed to determine the overall percentage of the 10m lengths within the network falling into one of three categories, red, amber and green. The Council's Annual Status and Options Report (ASOR) is presented to the Environment, Development & Infrastructure (EDI) Committee and summarises the Council's road assets including information on the condition of the asset and future options which can be considered in terms of investment.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee to agree the attached report.
- 2.2 Committee to agree the most appropriate committee or other Council group for the roads resurfacing scrutiny report to be presented to for consideration.

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 The agreed objectives of the scrutiny review were to:

- analyse the effectiveness and appropriateness of focusing expenditure on roads classified as ‘amber’ rather than ‘red’ in improving the overall RCI score
- ensure the Council assesses the effectiveness of different surface treatment options including consideration of value for money and life cycle costs
- consider alternative approaches to road maintenance
- identify how the Council prioritises the allocation of revenue/capital roads budget and whether any additional factors or models should be considered.

3.2 Throughout this review four panel meetings were held to gather evidence.

- Panel one – Ayrshire Roads Alliance, Highland Council & Fife Council
- Panel two – Hillhouse Group, Macrebur, Colas and Kiely Bros.
- Panel three – BEAR Scotland, Transport Scotland and the Improvement Service.
- Panel four – Council Officers (Head of Roads and Amenity Services and two technical officers)

3.3 We would like to extend our appreciation for the cooperation and assistance received from all witnesses invited to provide evidence over the course of the review.

3.4 Based on the information obtained over the course of the review the panel has identified four recommendations specific to this review. These are detailed in the report attached as appendix 1.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 Committee is requested to agree the attached report and agree the most appropriate Committee or other Council group for the report to be presented to for consideration.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy	None
5.2 Financial	None
5.3 Legal	None
5.4 HR	None

5.5 Equalities None

5.6 Risk None

5.7 Customer Service None

Martin Caldwell

24 September 2019

For further information please contact:

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Roads Resurfacing Scrutiny Report