

## ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES UPDATE

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides an update on Roads and Infrastructure Service activities in recent months.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee note and consider the contents of this report.

### 3.0 DETAIL

#### Response to Covid

- 3.1 Roads and Infrastructure Services continue with Covid precautions in place to reduce the spread. The service currently have several staff absent due to the virus and we hope they make a quick and full recovery.

#### Capital Roads Reconstruction Programme

- 3.2 This year Roads and Infrastructure Services are delivering one of the largest capital programmes in roads reconstruction which includes £10M worth of capital investment announced as part of the budget process in February, £1.29M of Strategic Timber Transport Funding and £900k of active travel and footway improvement schemes. Please see the full programme and details on progress here: [Roads Capital Programme \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/roads-capital-programme) In summary, the carriageway works are largely complete and works are underway with the footway programme.

#### Waste Strategy

- 3.3 Work continues on the Council's Waste Strategy which is taking into consideration the BMW ban which comes into place at the end of 2025, the 25 year PPP contract with Renewi which ends in September 2026, the Deposit Return Scheme and the Household Waste Recycling Charter. Discussions continue with civil

servants from Scottish Government regarding the above and discussion continue with neighbouring local authorities with a view to maximising collaboration opportunities.

### **Winter Policy Update**

- 3.4 Winter maintenance standby rotas commenced on Friday 29 October. This follows the current in season policy agreed at the September meeting of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee. At the time of writing at the beginning of November, we have over 10,500 tonnes of rock salt, which is our normal start of season operating tonnage.
- 3.5 Members will be very much aware of the national shortage of HGV drivers. Whilst we have not lost a significant number of drivers, this does have an impact on recruitment of HGV drivers. This is being compounded by some absence being experienced through Covid.

### **Public Transport**

- 3.6 Officers are currently liaising with West Coast Motors on roll out and implementation of Pingo app-bookable bus service. The Pingo app funding is provided by HITRANS for up to a year's trial, however, the app is being tested on two Council contracted demand responsive services- Cowal DAB and Kintyre Ring n Ride. Subject to a satisfactory trial, this system is likely to be rolled out more widely.

### **Bridge Inspections**

- 3.7 The Infrastructure Design team continue to carry out bridge inspections to all approx 900 structures on a rolling programme across Argyll and Bute to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose. This inspection regime identifies remedial works which are programmed for delivery.

### **B8001 Road Subsidence**

- 3.8 There has been ground movement on a section of the B8001 which has caused a section of the carriageway to tear resulting in surface unevenness and a very obvious crack along the carriageway. A permanent repair will be progressed through our Roads Capital Programme.
- 3.9 Works are expected to start on site in late Spring/Summer in 2022 for repairs to this lifeline section of road. Consultant designs have been reviewed and are evolving to ensure that we have a cost effective, sustainable and viable solution in place. This includes some further design and realignment at the toe of the slope along the stream. Designs are being concluded together with various land assembly.

### **Port Askaig**

- 3.10 Outline designs, program and costs are being prepared to accommodate the

latest vessel design being proposed by CMAL/Transport Scotland for this route. These vessels will have an increased capacity which in part will help with the increasing freight traffic associated with Islay.

### **Gartbreck Landfill Site, Islay**

- 3.11 The contract has been awarded to build a transfer station which will enable us to deal with general waste and recyclable materials in line with the upcoming Biodegradable Municipal Waste Landfill Ban. The contractor is developing a programme and a start date will be provided in due course.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 This report gives a general update to local members on recent Roads and Infrastructure activities.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy – various policies referred to within the body of the report
- 5.2 Financial – none
- 5.3 Legal – none known
- 5.4 HR – none known
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: (please refer to guidance on Hub)
- 5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics – none known
- 5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – none known
- 5.5.3 Islands – none known
- 5.6. Risk – none known
- 5.7 Customer Service - none

**Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services  
Kirsty Flanagan**

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