

## 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. Information on the progress of footway schemes is also available online at: [Footways Capital Funding Programme \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/footways-capital-funding-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. Once the pilot schemes are completed these will be evaluated and further information provided for all Members

### **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.

### **Gallanach Road Closure**

- 3.8 Due to a recent rock fall, Gallanach Road is closed beyond Kilbowie House. Access to the Kerrera Ferry is available via Mckelvie Road and Glenshellach Road from the roundabout at the fire station. We have assessed various options and have a recommended engineering solution. The Council, under the powers conferred on us as a Roads Authority in terms of Section 93 of the Roads Scotland Act 1984 (Protection of road users from danger near a road), has now instructed a contractor to commence works to make the hillside/cliff-face safe and remove the danger to the public road. At the time of writing the contractor is mobilising. By the time this report is presented to committee further progress will have been made and a further verbal update can be provided.

## **Craignure Pier**

- 3.9 Officers are in the process of developing a ferry terminal at Craignure to replace the existing structure which is coming to the end of its useful life. Good progress has been made this year with the design sub group consisting of local community representatives who are working closely with the Council on the aesthetics of the project. We are also working closely with CalMac, CMAL and Transport Scotland on this multi-million pound project.

## **Fire at Jackson's Quarry Depot**

- 3.10 A fire incident occurred at the Council's new Jackson's Quarry depot on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Thankfully nobody was injured, the fire was contained and there is no damage to any buildings on site, although neighbouring households were affected as the Fire Brigade evacuated them as a safety precaution. As is standard in incidents like this, we will now carry out a health and safety investigation.

## **Lismore Ferry Replacement**

- 3.11 The new Lismore Ferry is in the final stages of construction with launching expected on or before 12 November 2021. Harbour and sea trials will commence 15 November 2021 with final regulatory certification by MCA planned to be complete during familiarisation and training visit by our two Lismore ferry boat masters planned for 22 and 23 November at Pembroke Dock. On successful completion of trials, training and certification, the vessel will depart Pembroke 23 November on passage to Port Appin with estimated arrival date 29 November subject to favourable weather conditions. Handover of the vessel to Argyll and Bute Council will be carried out at Port Appin on satisfactory completion vessel checks, contract requirements and MCA certification.

## **Oban TRO**

- 3.12 A number of objections were received in relation to the proposed on-street restrictions. Officers have reviewed the substance of the objections and are currently formulating a response to the objectors. The response is expected to be issued within the next week or so. Following this, a period up to 14 days to allocated to allow the objectors to consider our response and either maintain or withdraw their objection. If all objections are withdrawn, which we consider unlikely at this stage, then the order can be made. On the assumption that at least some objections will be maintained, these will be summarised and presented to the area committee alongside recommendations from officers.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 This report provides 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**

**Policy Lead for Roads and Infrastructure Services  
Councillor Rory Colville**

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**For further information contact:**

Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services, Tel: 01546 604324