

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES UPDATE

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.

Arrochar Car Park

- 3.8 Historically the council has operated two car parks in Arrochar as pay and display. The car park nearest the village centre had been subject to a long term lease which has come to a natural end and the landowner has taken a decision to operate this car park on a commercial basis. This car park is now operated via Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). Members should note that ANPR is currently not available for local authorities to use for car park management. The second car park which was located nearer to Inveraray is also leased but from a different landowner. The Council is going through a process to purchase this site and will continue to operate this car park as a local authority pay and display. Officers are currently looking at possible options to extend this car park.

Luss TRO

- 3.9 A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has been through the statutory

consultation/advertisement process which has resulted in representation which will require an independent hearing to take place. This will be run by an independent Reporter who we expect will require evidence from the objector, the Council as the promotor of the Order together with any other relevant interested parties. Council officers are in the process of preparing the Council's case. It is expected the Reporter will commence the review mid-January 2022. In the meantime, a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is being prepared to extend the existing TTRO provisions to allow the case to reach conclusion. The TTRO will provide regulation and cover until such a time that the TRO is concluded. It is anticipated that the findings from the Reporter together with the wider TRO will be brought back to a future H&L Area Committee.

Waste Disposal in Helensburgh and Lomond

- 3.10 Barr Environmental, who provide a waste disposal service for refuse material collected in the Helensburgh and Lomond area, have been subject to a recent tax tribunal which was found in favour of Revenue Scotland. We are currently in contract with Barr for treatment of our residual waste, green waste and timber and are working to our current contract.

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 Climate Change – as a general comment Roads and Infrastructure are working across a number of fronts towards achieving net zero. This includes our Waste Strategy, LED lighting programme, the introduction of approx. 70 low emission vehicles in the last 18 months, project rolling out EV

charging points and innovative surfacing techniques which reduce the amount of waste and also the requirement for virgin aggregates.

5.7 Risk – none known

5.8 Customer Service - none

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