

PENNYGHAEL BRIDGE, MULL

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This Report details the current position regarding Pennyghael Bridge and is a follow up to the report presented to the October Area Committee and November Business Day.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 At present there are no weight restrictions on the A848 or A849 principal roads on Mull. These routes being out with the Mull Weight Restrictions Order. The Pennyghael Bridge, which is on the timber haul route to Pennycross, has been inspected and assessed on a regular basis and is not subject to a weight restriction. The main concern regarding the bridge is not whether the arch is strong enough as 44 tonne lorries can and do use the bridge, but the geometry of the roadway approach to the bridge. There is therefore neither a current business case approved nor funding available (circa in excess of £1M) to replace the bridge at this time.
- 3.2 In Financial years 2009 – 2010 Pennyghael Bridge was included in the Council's Capital Programme. However, as part of the Council decision on the 19 March 2010, the budget for this scheme was reduced to only allow the completion of the design work along with the schemes for Tibertich and Oude bridge realignment. There is no provision in the current capital programme, approved by Council on 14 February 2013 to progress this as a new build scheme. This is a scheme that could be considered for future delivery subject to budget provision and prioritisation.
- 3.3 As a pragmatic approach to the problem of geometry (which can result in the bridge's parapets being struck and damaged) 'gateway' width restrictors are to be installed to the bridge's approaches on either side of the bridge. These features will restrict the width of vehicles that can negotiate the bridge (to just less than the actual width of the bridge) and also force vehicles to slow down and take more care when crossing the bridge.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This Report details the current position regarding Pennyghael Bridge and is a follow up to the report presented the October Area Committee, November Business Day and Council Budget Meeting held on 14 February 2013.

5 IMPLICATIONS

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| 5.1 | Policy | <i>Works assessed and carried out under the current Roads Asset Management and Maintenance Plan</i> |
| 5.2 | Financial | Current Capital Programme does not include funding for this scheme. |
| 5.3 | Legal | None |
| 5.4 | HR | None |
| 5.5 | Equalities | None |
| 5.6 | Risk | None |
| 5.7 | Customer Services | None |

Executive Director of Development & Infrastructure

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