

Item 9 - Question TimeResponse to Mr A Baxter

Since approval of the Capital Programme in 2013, the former TECS functions have been transferred between Development and Infrastructure and Community Services. Delivery of this element of the Capital Programme is now under the Development and Infrastructure Service.

There has been no communication in the past 6 months on this matter between Highland Council Members and Officers with Scottish Government or Transport Scotland.

In 2013, the Highland Council was considering a 10 year Capital Programme and to that end each Service was requested to provide business cases for consideration by Elected Members in the determination of the Capital Programme. At that time, TEC Services provided many business cases for consideration and this included Caol Link Road with an estimated cost of £25m. The Council then considered all of the business cases and at full Council approved the Capital Programme on 27 June 2013.

This identified a firm Capital Programme for the 5 years 2013/14 to 2017/18 and an indicative Programme for the 5 years 2018/19 to 2022/23.

The report also included an affordability limit and Caol Link Road fell below this line.

It is thus identified as a priority but it is not currently included as the limited funds available have not allowed all such schemes to be taken forward.

The situation will be re-considered when a major review of the Capital Programme is undertaken.