

Agenda Item	25
Report No	EDI/61/18

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Environment, Development, Infrastructure

Date: 16 August 2018

Report Title: Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee

Report By: Director of Community Services

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report up-dates Members on the progress of the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee and the work undertaken so far to explore and develop opportunities for greater collaboration between Northern Roads Authorities.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are invited to:

- i. note the progress of the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee;
- ii. note that decisions on whether to participate in potential roads collaboration projects will be reserved to the Council; and
- iii. note that it is intended that EDI Committee will receive an annual report on performance, activities and achievements of the Joint Committee.

3. Formation of Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee

- 3.1 At its meeting on 29 June 2017, Council agreed to the formation of the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee. Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, Angus Council, Argyll and Bute Council, The Moray Council and Western Isles Council are joint participants in this Committee. The Council agreed that the lead Authority for Year 1 would be Aberdeenshire Council, and that the Chair and Vice-chair of the EDI Committee be appointed to the Joint Committee.
- 3.2 The Joint Committee recognises the value of working with others to improve resilience and reduce costs, and has been established to provide direction and leadership to allow suitable projects for collaborative working to be identified, and to make recommendations to the participating Council's on the proposals. One of the benefits of the Committee is to overcome barriers to fully benefit from collaborative activity due to the perceived complexities of EU procurement law.
- 3.3 Decisions to participate in collaborative projects will be taken by each Council, who would then be required to allocate resources to the project. Once a project is initiated, the Joint Committee will oversee the delivery of the project. The joint committee will produce an annual performance report and financial statement which would be made available to all member councils.

4. Progress to date

- 4.1 The first meeting of the Northern Roads Collaboration took place on 18 May 2018 at Aberdeen. Mrs Ellen Morton of Argyll and Bute Council was appointed as the Chair, and Aberdeenshire Council was confirmed as the lead Authority for support arrangements for the Committee.
- 4.2 Potential collaborative options for Dredging, Harbour and Marine Works, Design Services and Road Safety were discussed, and it was agreed that further work should be undertaken to progress potential sharing proposals in these areas, which would be brought back to the Committee for consideration.
- 4.3 The meeting was attended by Mr Angus Bodie of the Improvement Service who gave a presentation to the Committee. He was very complimentary about the progress made by the Northern Roads Authorities, and described the collaboration as the most advanced in Scotland because it is the only one which to date has succeeded in formally signing up to a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the formation of a committee.
- 4.4 Future meeting dates of 31 August 2018 and 23 November 2018 have been agreed. Argyll and Bute Council will host the next meeting. The main agenda items for the next meeting has been identified as Roads Asset Management and Roads Condition Indicators for the Member Authorities, as well as further discussion regarding collaboration opportunities identified.

5. Implications

- 5.1 Resource – as detailed in this report, each collaborative activity identified will be subject to approval from Elected Members.
- 5.2 Legal – No implications

- 5.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) - there are no direct equality, poverty or rural implications arising from these proposals.
- 5.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – No implications.
- 5.5 Risk – No implications
- 5.6 Gaelic – No implications.

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 3 August 2018

Author: Tracey Urry

Background Papers: Highland Council Report – 29 June 2017

https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3855/highland_council