

(34) Mr R Bremner

To the Chair of the Corporate Resources Committee

Highland Council has no doubt, over recent weeks, been preparing its fleet for the delivery of winter maintenance. The variable nature of weather conditions in the Highlands, particularly over the winter period, can have a detrimental effect on the budget and infrastructure. As I understand it, the Scottish Government offers support through the Bellwin Scheme to retrospectively support local authorities meeting key criteria in order to mitigate some of the challenges they face. Will you take steps to ensure that all members fully understand the support mechanism of the Bellwin Scheme and how this scheme can support local authorities, including Highland Council?

*Details on the Bellwin scheme and its applicability can be seen on the Scottish Government website at the following link:*

*Bellwin Scheme: guidance and application form - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)*

*I would draw Members' attention specifically towards appendix A of the guidance which identifies the type of expenditure that are both eligible, and not ineligible, under this scheme.*