

Agenda Item	<b>7</b>
Report No	<b>BSAC/20/21</b>

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Badenoch & Strathspey

**Date:** 9 November 2021

**Report Title:** Area Roads Programme 2021/2022 Update

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

### 1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report updates Members on progress achieved with the prioritised list of structural works for the Badenoch & Strathspey Area.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the progress achieved with the prioritised 2021/22 Roads Programme for Badenoch & Strathspey Area.

### 3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - All work is managed within budget allocations from a resource perspective with The Highland Council delivering its legal responsibilities.
- 3.2 **Legal** - The Highland Council undertakes the Structural Programme within the Local Committee area in its duty under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.
- 3.3 **Climate and Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** - This report has no impact on Equality, Gaelic, Climate Change or Carbon Clever considerations. However, there may be rural considerations where low road usage levels and distances between communities reduce the opportunity to maximize the impact of investment decisions when compared to more densely populated areas /roads with greater usage levels.
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** – No implications.
- 3.5 **Risk** – No implications.
- 3.6 **Gaelic** - This report has no impact on Gaelic.

## 4 Budget Background & Programme Progress Update

- 4.1 The Highland Roads Budget for this year was approved at the Economy and Infrastructure Committee on 4 February 2021 (report [ECI/6/21](#)). This year, 2021/22, the total Highland Roads Capital Budget is £17.2m.
- 4.2 The current Revenue budget allocation for Badenoch & Strathspey for 2021/22 is £840,565 which is required to cover labour, plant and materials (including salt) for Roads Cyclical Maintenance and Winter Maintenance activities.
- 4.3 The Badenoch & Strathspey Capital Budget allocation for Area Structural (Capital) Works is £765,310. The proposed priorities for 2021/22 were agreed at Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee on 25 May 2021 ([BSAC/09/21](#)). As usual the programme undertakes primarily Surface Dressing and Surfacing schemes.

Progress made with these priorities can be found in the updated table in **Appendix A** to this report.

- 4.4 The Ward Allocation of £100k per Ward (referred to in Report [ECI/6/21](#)) is included in the 2021/22 Badenoch & Strathspey Capital Budget allocation (item 4.3 above).
- 4.5 Since Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee on 25 May 2021 the area Badenoch & Strathspey Capital Budget (£765,310, item 4.3 above) has been supplemented by additional capital funds agreed at Highland Council on 24 June 2021 as part of Highland Roads Recovery (Item 9, [HC/14/21](#); updated at Economy & Infrastructure Committee on 1 September 2021, Item 9, [ECI/35/2021](#)).
- 4.6 This additional funding is £6.5m highland-wide (part of £9m over two financial years, 2021/22 and 2022/23, as part of Phase 2 and 3 of the Council's Health & Prosperity Strategy ([HC/14/21](#))).
- 4.7 Badenoch & Strathspey's additional allocation amounts to £186,557, spread over two years, 2021/22 and 2022/23, (for capital activities such as surface dressing, resurfacing, strip widening, passing places, etc.). Officers continue to work from the agreed list of priorities.

## 5 Work Programme Types

- 5.1 Road Maintenance budgets are normally allocated under the following headings:-

- Winter Maintenance (Revenue)
- Cyclic Maintenance (Revenue) including:-
  - Drainage
  - Footpath Maintenance
  - Gully Cleansing
  - Temporary Patching Repairs
  - Road Marking Renewal
  - Sign Maintenance
  - Verge Maintenance
  - Other Cyclic and Routine maintenance

- Structural Works (Capital) including:-
  - Structural Resurfacing (Overlay/Inlay)
  - Structural Integrity Improvements
  - Surface Dressing
  - Recycling
  - Major Patching
  - Projects (larger schemes)

5.2 This report focuses on the Area Structural Works (Capital) programme.

## **6 Programme Background**

6.1 Schemes are selected for inclusion in these programmes on the basis of need using the information gathered from the following sources and are prioritised with the safety of the travelling public and sustainability of the road network as the main objectives:-

- Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) data;
- Safety Inspections;
- Service Inspections; and
- Input and feedback from Members.

6.2 The Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) records data which is processed to show rutting, profile, cracking and surface texture. Surface texture is principally used in the preparation of surface dressing programmes. Rutting and profile data is used for surfacing programmes, while cracking data is used in both surface dressing and surfacing programmes.

6.3 The SRMCS survey is undertaken according to the following schedule:-

- A class roads annually;
- B class roads every two years; and
- C & U class roads every three years

6.4 The SRMCS survey is presently up to date. The surveys are usually undertaken throughout the spring, summer and autumn but do not include winter damage due to the freeze thaw cycle.

6.5 WDM can produce a paper plan showing the damage over a wide area but the volume of data and the scale of the plan results in the data being difficult to use or handle. The system is best used interactively, using both an overview and then closer inspection at a smaller scale. Small scale prints can be produced for specific sites.

6.6 Given the survey frequency, the SRMCS data is only indicative of the road conditions at any one time. Additional deterioration and repairs may not be captured on the survey. Consequently, additional sources of information are used.

6.7 All roads are inspected either monthly, quarterly or annually for safety hazards depending on their priority. Roads are also inspected in the course of preparing the works programmes. These inspections, together with specific concerns raised through Members and Community Councils, are considered for inclusion in the works programmes.

6.8 The programmes are prepared over the winter months and are finalised in the spring to allow for additional damage due to freeze thaw cycle. Winter often has a serious effect on the road network. The programmes reflect both the strategic network and the importance attached to local roads by rural communities.

6.9 Prior to finalising the programmes, each site is again visited by experienced engineers to confirm the importance of the works against the network and the details of the designs.

## **7 Additional Capital Funding for Strategic Roads**

7.1 The Strategic Road Schemes – Capital Allocation report taken to Environment & Infrastructure Committee on 5 May 2021 (Item 6, [ECI/15/2021](#)), detailed the proportion of the £20m highland-wide roads capital (for 2021/22 and 2022/23) that will be spent on strategic schemes to be £7.4m (£3.7m per year over 2021/22 and 2022/23).

7.2 After funding is allocated for agreed major maintenance schemes, specified PDU schemes, and Scottish Timber Transport scheme match funding, the remainder is allocated to the Highland strategic road network for surface treatments such as surfacing, and surface dressing is £3.067m.

7.3 The report describes the methodology for scheme identification, prioritisation, and allocation (i.e., the combination of SRMCS scheme builder results, operational factors, risk assessments, engineering input, etc, as described in item 6 above).

7.4 Progress on spending the Strategic allocation was reported in Appendix B of the 01 September 2021 E&I Committee Roads & Transport Transformation and Roads Capital Allocation Update report ([ECI/35/2021](#), Item 9).

7.5 In Badenoch & Strathspey area strategic roads identified are the A938 and the A939. Of the works identified, patching and resurfacing was completed on the A938 and the A939 this summer at sections including Tullochgribban, Duthil and Dava.

7.6 Planned works include additional works on the A938 and A939.

## **8 Roads Transformation Strategy**

8.1 Contractor availability has been a significant factor this year, primarily due to the increase in volume of work resulting from the welcome larger council roads budget combined with that of neighbouring local authorities and the trunk road authority and the effect of the Covid pandemic.

8.2 Thankfully by planning and notifying works and engaging with contractors early we have been able to achieve significant capital works over the summer 2021 season.

8.3 Simultaneously, with council roads operatives we have achieved significant capital surface dressing works (in addition to patching and cyclical (revenue budget) maintenance works).

8.4 Visitor infrastructure issues have impacted significantly on staff time this year and experience, prioritisation and endeavour have been essential in delivering the capital programme whilst addressing this.

8.5 Staff continue to focus on Highland Roads Recovery. Innovation, specialist vehicle replacements, team development, partnership working, consultation, communication and all available budget streams continue to help deliver.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment

Date: 19 October 2021

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Background Papers: Roads & Transport Transformation and Roads Capital Allocation  
[Update](#)  
Strategic Road Schemes – Capital [Allocation](#)  
Medium Term Financial Planning and Health & Prosperity  
Strategy [Investment](#)  
Badenoch & Strathspey Area Roads Programme [2021/2022](#)  
Roads Investment Budget Distribution – Capital [Report](#)

## Appendix 1

### Badenoch & Strathspey Capital Works 2021/22

Badenoch and Strathspey Area 2021-22 Budget Proposals Capital (Highland £7.2M + £3.6M Area + £2.1M Ward) Total = £765,310						
	Route	Description	Length	Treatment	Estimated cost	Remarks
1	B970	Culreach (Balliefurth)	1200	Surface dress	£20,160	Complete
2	B970	Sub stn to Loch Garten jctn	500	Surface dress	£10,675	Complete
3	B970	Loch Garten jctn to Mains of Garten	600	Surface dress	£12,810	Complete
4	B9102	Lettoch - Craigvarren - Advie jctn - Tulchan	5100	Surface dress	£80,325	Complete
5	A938	Achnahannet jctn area (Balnaan jctn to Tullochgrobban Plantation)	1880	Surface dress	£39,480	Complete
6	A938	Balnacruie - Tullochgribban	1125	Surface dress	£23,625	Complete
7	A938	Carrbridge Hotel to speed limits	400	Surface dress	£8,400	Complete
8	A938	Foregin - Baddengorm	1010	Surface dress	£21,210	Complete
9		Station Rd jctn Newtonmore	100	Inlay	£19,600	Planning the works
10	U2264	Balgowan	1000	Overlay	£67,000	Complete
11	C1137	Glentruim - sectn 1	900	Overlay	£64,800	Complete
12	C1137	Glentruim - sectn 2	400	Overlay	£36,216	Complete
13		Drainage resolutions – various		Structural Drainage	£45,000	Ongoing
14		South St drainage, Grantown-on-Spey		Structural Drainage	£35,000	Reviewing
15		Various		Patching	£50,000	Ongoing
16	A939	Dava - Phase 1		Patching	£63,000	Complete
17	A939			Surfacing	£0	Strategic Capital – Part complete
18	A938	Tullochgribban		Overlay	£0	Strategic Capital - Complete
19		Various		Jetpatcher	£25,000	Complete
20		Various village bell-mouths/junctions		Patching	£88,000	Part complete - ongoing
21		Collapsed culverts & retaining wall		Structural Maintenance	£43,320	Ongoing
22		Glenbanchor cattle grid		Capital Structural	£0	HQ - Planned
23	C1126	Glenmore parallel parking, verge, speed limits		Structural Integrity Improvements	£0	Visitor Improvements - Ongoing
24		Burnfield Car Park, Grantown-on-Spey		Overlay	£0	Visitor Improvements - tbc
25						
26		Opposite BSW sawmill entrance, and road		Inlay/Overlay	£0	STTS – tbc
27	B970			Project	£0	STTS – tbc
28		Crubenmore culvert		Capital Structural	£35,000	Planning the works
29	U2375	Finlarig road	140	Resurface	£44,800	Complete
30		Shankland Court drainage, Grantown-on-Spey		Structural Drainage	£40,000	Complete
				<b>Total</b>	<b>£873,421</b>	