

Agenda Item	5
Report No	NC/21/21

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Nairnshire

Date: 1 December 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 Nairn area.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the progress achieved with the prioritised 2021/22 Roads Programme for Nairn 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, under 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** – It is recognised that such works do have a carbon load.

- 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 Nairn for 2021/22 is £460,155 which is required to cover labour, plant and materials (including salt) for Roads Cyclical Maintenance and Winter Maintenance activities.
- 4.3 The Nairn Capital Budget allocation for Area Structural (Capital) Works is £523,021. The proposed priorities for 2021/22 were agreed at Nairn Area Committee on 10 March 2021 ([NC/05/21](#)). 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 Nairn Capital Budget allocation (Item 4.3 above).
- 4.5 Since Nairn Area Committee on 25 May 2021, the Nairn area Capital Budget (£523,021, 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 01 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 Nairn's additional allocation amounts to £135,921, 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 allocated for agreed major maintenance schemes, specified PDU schemes, and Scottish Timber Transport scheme match funding, the remainder 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 1 September 2021 E&I Committee Roads & Transport Transformation and Roads Capital Allocation Update report ([ECI/35/2021](#), Item 9).
- 7.5 In Nairn area, Strategic road requirements were identified on the A939. Of the works identified, surface patching and was completed this summer at sections including Belivat, Logie Bridge, Aitnoch and Dava.
- 7.6 Planned works include additional works on the 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 often impacted 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, Environment & Economy

Date: 10 November 2021

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Background Papers: [ECI/35/2021](#) – Roads & Transport Transformation and Roads Capital Allocation Update, Item 9, E&I Committee

[ECI/15/2021](#) – Strategic Road Schemes – Capital Allocation, Item 6, E&I Committee

[HC/14/21](#) – Medium Term Financial Planning and Health and Prosperity Strategy Investment, Item 9i, Highland Council

[NC/05/21](#) - Nairn Area Roads Programme 2021/2022 – Item 6, Nairn Area Committee

[ECI/6/21](#) – Roads Investment Budget Distribution – Capital Report - No9, E&I Committee

Appendix 1

Nairn Capital Works 2021/22

	Route	Description	Scheme Length (m)	Treatment Required	Est. Cost	Remarks
1	U3010	Granny Barbour's Road	750	Surface Dress	£17,063	Complete
2	U3114	Meikleburn road	2000	Surface Dress	£21,600	Complete
3	U3075	Lethen - Easter Clune brae – Tomnagee	2000	Surface Dress	£24,500	Complete
	U3075	Lethen - Easter Clune brae	830	Overlay	£82,170	Complete
4	C1157	Fornighty Farm to Kronyhillock Wood	450	Overlay	£34,650	Complete
	C1157	Fornighty Farm to Kronyhillock Wood	950	Surface Dress	£16,625	Complete
5	U3211	Easter Clune road	830	Overlay	£89,640	Complete
6		Westbury Road	120	Inlay	£22,800	Imminent
7	C1171	Moyness road	30	Reprofile	£18,875	Complete
8	U3208	Daless road, Drynachan	250	Patching	£43,750	Planned
9	C1175	Crook road	75	Patching	£13,125	Ongoing
10	C1169	Coulmony road	60	Patching	£21,000	
		Line 1.				
11	B9090	Hedges to Howford	500	Widening	£250,000	Planned
12	C1154 & C1161	Rehaurie-Tomloan-Urchany-Cawdor road	3000	Overlay	£315,000	
		Line 2.				
13	C1172/ U2997	Boath - Bogside of Boath – Millhill	1800	Surface Dress	£20,160	
14	U2997	Auchnacloch - Millhill – Drumduan - Bogheads	2500	Surface Dress	£35,280	Complete
15	U3164	A96 to Penick	1000	Surface Dress	£11,200	
16	U3101	Drynachan Rd (old cattle grid to Cawdor/Dulsie jctn)	2750	Surface Dress	£30,800	
17	C1165	Highland Boath to Drynachan Lodge	5000	Surface Dress	£56,000	
18	U3127	Burnside of Geddes to B9090 jctn	1500	Surface Dress	£16,800	
19	C1154	Cawdor to Urchany	5000	Surface Dress	£61,250	
20		Beach Avenue	380	surface Dress	£9,310	
21	C1157	Moyness cross-roads to C1167 Cottarton jctn	4000	Surface Dress	£49,000	
	C1157	C1167 Cottarton jctn – Lethen jctn - Fornighty Farm	1900	Surface Dress	£33,250	Complete
22	C1175	Crook to Raitloan	2000	Surface Dress	£24,500	

	Route	Description	Scheme Length (m)	Treatment Required	Est. Cost	Remarks
23	C1175	Howford to Crook	500	Surface Dress	£5,600	
24	C1161	Urchany to Rehaurie	5000	Surface Dress	£61,250	
25	C1167	Burnside of Lethen - Easter Cotterton - Easter Arr	1500	Surface Dress	£24,255	Complete
26	C1174	Achavelgin	500	Surface Dress	£5,600	
27	C1163	Little Kildrummie road	2250	Surface Dress	£25,988	
28	B9091	Nairn - Clephanton	8500	Surface Dress	£193,375	
	B9091	Clephanton B9090 jctn	100	Inlay	£25,350	Complete
29	B9101	Auldearn to B9090 jctn	5500	Surface Dress	£125,125	
30	B9007	Ferness to Moray boundary	4000	Surface Dress	£63,000	
31	C1169	Coulmony road	4000	Surface Dress	£63,000	
32	U3075	Lethen Bar road (south end)	1500	Surface Dress	£16,800	
33	U1169	Urchany - Barevan - Galcantray road	8000	Surface Dress	£89,600	
34		Harbour Street	430	Surface Dress	£10,535	
35		Cranloch roads	900	Surface Dress	£18,900	
36	A939	Ardclach loop N jctn with A939	50	Patching	£15,750	
37	A939	Ferness cross-roads	150	Patching	£47,250	
38	B9007	Dunearn	10	Patching	£2,250	
39	U3101	Drynachan rd (old cattle grid to Cawdor/Dulsie jctn)	1375	Patching	£123,750	
40	C1157	Moyness cross-roads to Broomhill Farm	1000	Patching	£90,000	
41	C1171	Moyness road, passing places	40	Patching	£3,600	
42		Beach Avenue, Achareidh	40	Patching	£14,400	
43		Boath Road, Auldearn	60	Patching	£18,900	
44		George Wilson Road, Auldearn	20	Patching	£5,400	
45	B9090	Knockloam jctn	40	Patching	£9,000	
46	B9091	Meikle Kildrummie jctn	100	Patching	£27,000	
47	B9090	Little Kildrummie jctn	40	Patching	£9,000	
48	C1169	Coulmony road	30	Patching	£6,075	
49		George Street/Mill Road jctn	30	Patching	£6,750	
50		Millbank Street junctions	100	Patching	£27,000	
51	C1172	Auldearn Station jctn	50	Patching	£8,750	Complete
52	U2997	Auchnacloch - Millhill - Drumduan	80	Patching	£7,200	Complete

	Route	Description	Scheme Length (m)	Treatment Required	Est. Cost	Remarks
53		Blairfield Rd, Tradespark	200	Overlay	£24,500	
54		Manse Road, Auldearn	100	Overlay	£21,000	
55		Cawdor Road, Auldearn	100	Overlay	£14,000	
56	C1157	Moyness cross-roads	100	Overlay	£12,250	
57	U3164	Penick Road, to Bogside of Boath	1100	Overlay	£123,200	
58	C1170	Lochdhu rd (Mosshall-Moss-side-Broadley rd)	500	Overlay	£42,000	
59	C1154/ B9090	Junction	126	Reprofile	£31,500	
60		Oakdean Place, Achareidh	110	Inlay	£23,595	
61		Rowan Place, Achareidh	125	Inlay	£29,250	
62		Morlich Crescent, Achareidh	210	Inlay	£49,140	
63		Assynt Gardens, Achareidh	135	Inlay	£31,590	
64		Cairn Avenue, Cranloch	140	Inlay	£32,760	
65		Loch Avenue, Cranloch	110	Inlay	£25,740	
66	Footway	Seaforth Road, Tradespark	200	Footway inlay	£7,200	
67	Footway	Moss-side Rd, Tradespark	95	Footway inlay	£4,275	
68	Footway	Millbank Cres, Nairn	200	Footway inlay	£9,000	
69	Footway	George Street, Queenspark	100	Footway inlay	£4,500	
70	Footway	Grantown road, Boathpark	75	Footway inlay	£3,375	
71	Footway	Wyvis Drive, Achareidh	200	Footway inlay	£7,200	
72	Footway	Pinewood Avenue, Achareidh	200	Footway inlay	£7,200	
73	Footway	Hawthorne Gardens, Achareidh	300	Footway inlay	£10,800	
74	Footway	Morlich Crescent, Achareidh	420	Footway inlay	£15,120	
75	Footway	Elm Grove, Achareidh	700	Footway inlay	£25,200	
76	Footway	Darroch Place, Achareidh	180	Footway inlay	£6,480	
77	Footway	Birch Road, Achareidh	175	Footway inlay	£6,300	
78	Footway	Beach Avenue, Achareidh	670	Footway inlay	£24,120	
79	Footway	Assynt Gardens, Achareidh	270	Footway inlay	£9,720	
80	Footway	Suitors Avenue, Boathpark	560	Footway inlay	£20,160	
81	Footway	Barbour Road, Boathpark	230	Footway inlay	£8,280	

	Route	Description	Scheme Length (m)	Treatment Required	Est. Cost	Remarks
82	Footway	Balblair Road, Balblair	110	Footway inlay	£3,960	
83	C1159	Lochloy Road	500	New Footway	£18,000	
84	B9091	From Balblair to Meikle Kildrummie road jctn	1000	Road Widening	£437,500	
85	A939	Nairn - Ferness - Dava		Sign Replacement	£15,000	
86	B9101	Foynesfield - Auldearn		Sign Replacement	£10,000	