

Agenda Item	8.
Report No	CC/05/24

The Highland Council

Committee: Caithness Committee

Date: 5 January 2024

Report Title: Annual Area Roads Capital Programme 2023/24 - Update

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the Area Roads Capital Programme 2023/24.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to **note**:

- i. the final budget allocation for Caithness area for 2023/24;
- ii. the works completed on the approved prioritised list to date; and
- iii. the additional works identified and prioritised throughout the year.

3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** – All work will be managed within budget allocations with the Council delivering its legal responsibilities.

3.2 **Legal** – The combined programme for Structural Resurfacing and Structural Integrity Improvements enables the Council to meet its duty under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 within the Local Committee Area.

3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** – This report recognises that the local road network serves both strategic traffic and local access to remote communities. Road improvement schemes are selected on both the strategic and local importance and the extent and severity of defects. Noting that funding falls short of addressing all of the known defects, low volume and rural routes may be disadvantaged as prioritisation of limited funding dictates.

3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** – It is recognised that resurfacing operations do have a significant carbon impact. Consideration will be given to preventative maintenance techniques which includes recycling and surface dressing techniques, but the levels of defects often preclude such approaches.

- 3.5 **Risk** – The level of investment across Highland falls short of the budget requirements to maintain a steady state condition of the road network. Deterioration of the overall network will occur with a corresponding risk to the travelling public. An increase in damage claims can also be expected, as the road defects develop.
- 3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – No implications arising from this report.
- 3.7 **Gaelic** – This report has no impact on Gaelic considerations.

4 Background

- 4.1 On 6th February 2023 at the Caithness Area Committee, Members approved the prioritised Area Roads Capital Programme (Report [CC/04/23](#)) for Caithness Area. At the time of approving the report the Highland Council has not set its budget for the 2023/24 financial year.

5 Budget

- 5.1 The Highland Council Budget was set on 2 March 2023, where Members agreed to invest an additional £12.8m on top of the baseline budget of £7.2m, bringing the total to £20m for Highland roads.

The distribution of the £20m was agreed that the roads baseline capital of £7.2m distributed as per current formula. £5.1m to be used to 'top up' the roads baseline capital also to be distributed as per current formula, £7.7m to be directed strategically to those Areas in most need.

On 4 May 2023 at Economy and Infrastructure Committee, Members agreed the distribution of the £7.7m.

- 5.2 The Caithness roads capital budget was finalised as:-

Base capital allocation (from £7.2m and £5.1m) = £1,117,721.

Strategic allocation (from (£7.7m) = £1,799,324.

A total for Caithness of £2,917,045.

6 Road Structural Maintenance Programme

- 6.1 Schemes were selected for inclusion on the basis of need using the information gathered from the following sources and have been 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 prioritised list for 2023/24 that was approved in February 2023 is detailed within Area Roads Capital Programme (Report [CC/04/23](#)) for Caithness Area. Schemes listed above the red line were what could be funded from the anticipated baseline capital allocation.

6.3 The approved list was reviewed following winter and once the effects of the weather on the road network could be assessed. Regular monthly meetings were held between Caithness Members and Senior Caithness Roads Staff where the revised list of priorities is discussed and agreed.

The revised prioritised list is detailed in **Appendix 1**. Schemes completed by end of December 2023 are identified.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

Date: 5 January 2024

Author: Joanne Sutherland, Roads Operations Manager
(Caithness & Sutherland)

Background Papers: Area Roads Capital Programme 2023/24 [Report](#)

Appendices: Appendix 1 - Caithness Prioritised Capital Works 2023/2024
(Reviewed December 2023)

2023/2024 Priority	Activity	Route	Road Name	General Description	Average Road Width (m)	Scheme Length (m)	Total Area (m²)	cost per m²	Estimated Cost to Lay	Status
235	Inlay	U4113	Ormile Hill junction		6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
236	Inlay	U4159	St peters Road		3	62	186	£20	£3,720.00	
237	Inlay	U4064	Howburn Road junction at store		6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
238	Inlay	U4078	Lythmore Road	U3989 & U4034	6	300	1800	£20	£36,000.00	
239	Inlay	U5035	Bishops Drive		6	16	96	£20	£1,920.00	
240	Inlay	U4333	Upper burnside Drive		6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
241	Inlay	U5431	Thurso buisness park		6	240	1440	£20	£28,800.00	
242	Inlay	U3942	Barrock Street		6	300	1800	£20	£36,000.00	
243	Inlay	U4024	Duncan Street junction		6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
244	Inlay	U4019	Davidsons Lane		6	230	1380	£20	£27,600.00	
245	Inlay	U4305	West church Street		3	400	1200	£20	£24,000.00	
246	Inlay	U4015	Cowie Lane		3	270	810	£20	£16,200.00	
247	Inlay	U4147	Rose Street		3	43	129	£20	£2,580.00	
248	Inlay	U4295	Thorkel Road		6	43	258	£20	£5,160.00	
249	Inlay	C1077	Durness Street		6	212	1272	£20	£25,440.00	
250	Inlay	C1077	Swanson Street	inc U4009 Couper Street	6	135	810	£20	£16,200.00	
251	Overlay	U4009	Couper square		6	50	300	£17	£5,100.00	
252	Inlay	B877	Shore Street		6	240	1440	£20	£28,800.00	
253	Inlay	U4309	Wilson Street	into Robert Dick Place (U4139 & U4133)	3	272	816	£20	£16,320.00	
254	Overlay	U1871	Comlifoot		6	643	3858	£17	£65,586.00	
255	Inlay	U1847	Sinclair Lane		3	678	2034	£20	£40,680.00	
256	Inlay	U1856	Sinclair square		6	66	396	£20	£7,920.00	
257	Inlay	B874	B874 main		3	2200	6600	£20	£132,000.00	
258	Inlay	U1838	Church Street		6	172	1032	£20	£20,640.00	
259	Inlay	U2752	Camilla Street		6	500	3000	£20	£60,000.00	
260	Inlay	U3514	Loch Street	Brown Place junction	6	337	2022	£20	£40,440.00	
261	Overlay	U2838	Rockhill Road		3	120	360	£17	£6,120.00	
262	Inlay	U3785	Harrow Road		6	173	1038	£20	£20,760.00	
263	Inlay	U3541	Harrow hill		6	131	786	£20	£15,720.00	
264	Inlay	U3563	Kennedy Terrace		3	46	138	£20	£2,760.00	
265	Inlay	U2388	OldWick Road		6	161	966	£20	£19,320.00	
266	Inlay	U3637	Roxburgh Road		6	381	2286	£20	£45,720.00	
267	Overlay	U2470	Old Wick Castle Road		3	745	2235	£17	£37,995.00	
268	Inlay	U3659	Wellington Avenue		3	100	300	£20	£6,000.00	
269	Inlay	U3569	Kinard Street		3	170	510	£20	£10,200.00	
270	Inlay	U3569	Kinnard/wellington	U3660	3	155	465	£20	£9,300.00	
271	Inlay	U3538	Bexly Terrace	Harbour Road junction (U3479 & U3624)	6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
272	Inlay	U3654	Smith Terrace		6	140	840	£20	£16,800.00	
273	Inlay	U3653	Sinclair Terrace		6	300	1800	£20	£36,000.00	
274	Inlay	U3455	Argyll square		3	100	300	£20	£6,000.00	
275	Inlay	U3511	Lowar dunbar Street junction with Bredalbane Terrace	Various patches	6	45	270	£20	£5,400.00	
278	Inlay	U3514	Upper dunbar Street - Brown Place junction		6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
279	Inlay	C1073	Harbour Terrace		6	150	900	£20	£18,000.00	
280	Inlay	U3666	Williamson Street		6	180	1080	£20	£21,600.00	
281	Inlay	U3643	Saltoun Street		6	82	492	£20	£9,840.00	
282	Inlay	U3491	Burn Street		6	147	882	£20	£17,640.00	
283	Inlay	U3632	Maratha Terrace		7.5	340	2550	£20	£51,000.00	
284	Inlay	U3655	Telford Street		6	98	588	£20	£11,760.00	
285	Inlay	U3805	Union Street	junction with Miller Street	6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
286	Inlay	C1041	BRoadhaven Road		6	220	1320	£20	£26,400.00	
287	Inlay	U3657	Market Street		3	42	126	£20	£2,520.00	
288	Inlay	C1041	Papigoe Road		6	600	3600	£20	£72,000.00	
289	Inlay	U2372	Elzy Place		6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
290	Inlay	U2376	Elzy Grove junction		6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
291	Inlay	U3801	Lindsay Drive - Port Dunbar	including U3668 & U3630	6	430	2580	£20	£51,600.00	
292	Inlay	U3553	Hillhead Road - willowbank junction		6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
293	Inlay	U3662	West Banks Avenue		6	375	2250	£20	£45,000.00	
294	Inlay	U3520	Grinigoe Street	include U3580 Leith Walk	6	420	2520	£20	£50,400.00	
295	Inlay	U3502	Leishman Avenue - corner Crescent junction		3	15	45	£20	£900.00	
296	Inlay	U3547	Henrietta Street		6	80	480	£20	£9,600.00	
297	Inlay	U3768	Airport Road-Ambulance station junction		6	40	240	£20	£4,800.00	
298	Inlay	U3768	Parallel airport Road		3	33	99	£20	£1,980.00	
299	Inlay	U3407	Hill Avenue meets ackergill cresenct		3	15	45	£20	£900.00	
300	Inlay	U3689	George Street		6	57	342	£20	£6,840.00	
301	Inlay	U3634	Robert Street - A99 junction		6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
302	Inlay	U3547	Henrietta Street - A99 junction		6	15	90	£20	£1,800.00	
303	Inlay	U3805	Station Road		6	150	900	£20	£18,000.00	
304	Inlay	U3649	Seaforth Avenue		3	120	360	£20	£7,200.00	
305	Overlay	C1010	North Barrock Junction		3	430	1290	£17	£21,930.00	
306	Overlay	C1010	South Barrock Junction		3	726	2178	£17	£37,026.00	
307	Overlay	C1033	Wildeston		3	341	1023	£17	£17,391.00	
308	Overlay	C1033	Innstack		3	148	444	£17	£7,548.00	
309	Overlay	B876	Killimster turn off to Biggins		6	1000	6000	£17	£102,000.00	
310	Overlay	A99	Reiss lodge		6	610	3660	£17	£62,220.00	
311	Overlay	B870	Quaybrae to Ruthers junction		3	1200	3600	£17	£61,200.00	
312	Overlay	B870	Quaybrae junction past Scottag		3	600	1800	£17	£30,600.00	
313	Overlay	U2460	Newfeild Road		3	400	1200	£17	£20,400.00	
314	Overlay	C1029	Camster Road Pennyland House		3	710	2130	£17	£36,210.00	
315	Overlay	C1029	Camster Road Strath to windfarm		3	4500	13500	£17	£229,500.00	
316	Overlay	C1029	Camster Road at Windfarm enterance		3	700	2100	£17	£35,700.00	
317	Overlay	C1029	Camster Road		3	700	2100	£17	£35,700.00	
318	Inlay	U3532	Green Road		6	200	1200	£20	£24,000.00	
319	Inlay	C1045	Latheronwheel village Road		6	300	1800	£20	£36,000.00	
320	Inlay	U1071	Lybster main st		6	400	2400	£20	£48,000.00	
321	Inlay	U3494	St fergus Road		6	220	1320	£20	£26,400.00	
322	Inlay	A836	Castletown Road		6	204	1224	20	£24,480.00	
323	Inlay	B874	Ormlie Road		7.5	20	150	20	£3,000.00	
324	Inlay	A99	A99 North St - B874 Jct		5.4	380	2052	20	£41,040.00	
325	Inlay	A836	A836 Castletown to Dunnet		7.5	280	2100	20	£42,000.00	Complete
326	Inlay	A836	A836 Castletown to Dunnet		7.5	70	525	20	£10,500.00	Complete
327	Overlay	U1043	Dunbeath - Mulbuie Road		3.5	300	1050	17	£17,850.00	
328	Overlay	U1557	FresWick to Skirza	Mid section of Road	3	400	1200	17	£20,400.00	Complete
329	Overlay	C1001	Glengolly - Isauld	Glengolly junction	9	20	180	17	£3,060.00	Complete
329	Overlay	U2225	Sibmister		3	400	1200	17	£20,400.00	
330	Overlay	C1001	Glengolly - Isauld	At Newlands of Geise	5.6	600	3360	17	£57,120.00	Complete
331	Inlay	A836	Thurso to John O'Groats	Castletown from garden centre to Mill	6	500	3000	20	£60,000.00	Complete
332	Inlay	A836	Thurso to John O'Groats	Dunnet Caravan park to entrance to village	6.4	500	3200	20	£64,000.00	Complete