

**ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES UPDATE**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on Roads and Infrastructure Service activities in recent months.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee consider and note the contents of this report.

**3.0 DETAIL**

**Response to Covid**

- 3.1 Roads and Infrastructure Services have spent the last year mostly operating to pre-Covid specification/schedule and timetables taking into account Covid secure measures as appropriate.

venue is in. Limited capacity at Crematorium limits this number to 18.

### **Capital Roads Reconstruction Programme**

- 3.4 The proposed Roads Capital Programme was reported to the Environment, Development Infrastructure Committee in March 2021. As part of the 2021/22 budget process that took place on 25 February 2021 at the Full Council meeting, Members allocated an additional £2.61M for roads reconstruction. Additional schemes have now been added to what is now a £10M Roads Reconstruction programme for financial year 2021/22. The finalised programme is being reported to the Environment, Development Infrastructure Committee in June 2021 and can be viewed on the Council website.

### **Bin Collections and Civic Amenity Sites**

- 3.5 Bin collections continue to full schedules, as mentioned above this is carried out with additional vehicles to ensure we have no more than 2 people per vehicle. All civic amenity sites are fully open and operating well with no significant issues to note.

### **Waste Strategy**

- 3.6 Work continues on the Council's Waste Strategy which is taking into consideration the BMW ban which comes into place at the end of 2025, the 25 year PPP contract with Renewi which ends in September 2026, the deposit Return Scheme and the Household Waste Recycling Charter. Discussions continue with civil servants from Scottish Government regarding the above and discussion continue with neighbouring local authorities with a view to maximising collaboration opportunities.

### **Correspondence and Information**

- 3.7 The team have recently began to issue weekly briefings to Members providing updates on staycation activity and planned works for the coming week. A RIS Twitter account was launched on 10 May 2021 which will provide helpful information to members of the public. Additional warden hours are being provided as part of the council's staycation response. The weekly updates provided to Members details the some of the highlights across the council area from a staycation position.
- 3.8 Our performance statistics for FOIs, complaint and member enquiries have improved significantly recently and the team have also reduced our customer contacts from over 50,000 in 2016/17 to just over 15,000 last year on the wider customer service front.

### **Winter Update**

- 3.9 Winter maintenance services were delivered in line with the Council's Winter Maintenance Policy. Demands on this part of the services were significant this

season with a higher than average number of treatments having been carried out due to the cold conditions we have experienced. Our resilience in terms of salt stocks was good in part due to officers planning well ahead to ensure we have sufficient stocks available and held locally.

ground consisting of CalMac, Northern Lighthouse Board and the Council with strategic support from colleagues in head offices. SEPA and the MCA were also involved. The multi-agency group carried out a review of the oil spill response which confirmed that the oil spill had been dealt with incredibly well.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

4.1 This report gives a general update to local members on recent Roads and Infrastructure activities.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Policy – various policies referred to within the body of the report

5.2 Financial – none

5.3 Legal – none known

5.4 HR – none known

5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: (please refer to guidance on Hub)

5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics – none known

5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – none known

5.5.3 Islands – none known

5.6. Risk – none known

5.7 Customer Service - none

#### **Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services**

Kirsty Flanagan

**Head of Roads and Infrastructure:** Jim Smith

#### **Policy Lead for Roads and Infrastructure Services**

Councillor Rory Colville

May 2021

#### **For further information contact:**

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