

## **AYRSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
on 7th September 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillors Ian Cochrane (Chair), Alec Clark and Philip Saxton (all South Ayrshire Council); and Councillors Tom Cook, John McGhee and Douglas Reid (all East Ayrshire Council).
- Apologies: Councillor Jim Roberts (East Ayrshire Council); and Councillor Bob Pollock (South Ayrshire Council).
- Attending: Donald Gillies, Director – Place; and Kevin Carr, Executive Manager, Place Directorate (both South Ayrshire Council); Paul Whip, Group Finance Manager (East Ayrshire Council); Stewart Turner, Head of Roads, and Kevin Braidwood, Operations Manager (both Ayrshire Roads Alliance); and Eillen Wyllie, Committee Services Officer (South Ayrshire Council).

### **1. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of the Joint Committee's Order No. 25 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

## **AYRSHIRE ROADS ALLIANCE**

### **2. Update on Performance Scorecard.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 August 2018 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advising of the progress made to date against the Performance Scorecard.

The Head of Roads commented on the Annual Performance Indicators in relation the percentage of roads that should be considered for maintenance. It was noted that around £6m was required to maintain roads at a standstill position each year in each Council area. A Member of the Joint Committee asked what could be done about this situation. In response, the Head of Roads also pointed out that there was a backlog of works which required significant funding of around £60m in each Council area. A full discussion took place and it was suggested that a request for investment for road maintenance improvements be made to Central Government as it was increasingly difficult for local government to invest in roads to a sustainable level of funding. Also, the request should mention the impact of adverse weather conditions experienced in the South West of Scotland. It was noted that the Head of Roads would compile a report on these terms in conjunction with the Chair and Councillor Douglas Reid to submit to Government requesting additional funding for road maintenance and the backlog of works.

A further question was asked by a Member of the Joint Committee in relation to resurfacing works and the Head of Roads and the Operations Manager commented on the methods of resurfacing undertaken in order to make efficient use of funds.

A question was asked in relation to the proposals for the A77 Maybole Bypass and whether this section of road would consist of a dual carriageway, at least in part. The Head of Roads advised that the Maybole Bypass would be single carriageway rather than dual carriageway, which was the decision taken by Transport Scotland in light of the volume of traffic expected on this section of the road. However, since there was an increase in the number of heavy goods vehicle travelling on this road, the Head of Roads would raise this with the Strategic Transport Projects Review group during forthcoming discussions.

In relation to Appendix 1 of the report, the following matters were raised and the Head of Roads and the Operations Manager responded accordingly:-

- (1) in terms of the percentage differences of the number of A class roads that should be considered for maintenance between East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils, it was noted that prior to Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA), East Ayrshire Council had created an objective-matrix to identify the roads in need of resurfacing. This matrix had since been adopted by ARA;
- (2) in relation to the average days lost per employee for absence for ARA in comparison with both local authorities, it was noted that the figure was higher for ARA most possibly due to the type of work and working conditions experienced by staff that could lead to injury and illness. It was noted that regular meetings take place with HR with appropriate management actions taken;
- (3) in relation to the performance around the reporting of health and safety incidents, it was noted that any outstanding issues had now been addressed;
- (4) in terms of a comment made in relation to public perception and the number of visitors to the ARA website, it was noted that feedback consisted of both negative and positive comments; and
- (5) In relation to the outcomes for the number of bridge inspections, it was noted that any subsequent bridge maintenance works would be fed into the work plan. In relation to the Bridge of Coyle, it was noted that a report would be submitted to a forthcoming meeting of South Ayrshire Council's Leadership Panel.

The Joint Committee, having otherwise noted the content of the report

**Decided:**

- (a) to note the performance scorecard presented in this report;
- (b) to continue to receive performance scorecard updates; and
- (c) that the Head of Roads in liaison with the Chair and Councillor Douglas Reid would prepare a detailed report, supported by evidence, requesting capital investment for the roads infrastructure to be submitted to Central Government with reference made to the impact of adverse weather affecting the West of Scotland.

### **3. Risk Report and Register.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 August 2018 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advising of the management of risk associated with the Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

Following various questions by Members of the Joint Committee, the Officers responded as follows:-

- (1) in relation to the risks associated with bridges and structures, it was noted that the risk status would not alter until the completion of the bridge inspection work being undertaken by Peter Brett Associates; and
- (2) in terms of Development Control – Road Bonds, it was noted that the Head of Roads was confident that, following evaluation, there were sufficient funds held within the bonds to cover associated costs.

The Joint Committee, having otherwise noted the content of the report

#### **Decided:**

- (a) to note the risk register presented in the report; and
- (b) to continue to receive updates on progress.

### **4. Well Managed Highway Infrastructure - Code of Practice.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6th August 2018 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance advising of the Well Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice.

The Operations Manager presented the report and highlighted the suggested risk based approach, as outlined within the Appendix to the report as well as a change to the current inspection policy. This related to the priority response times for Category 3 defects whereby it was proposed to move from 10 working days to 45 working days which would allow defects of this nature to be included in medium term programmes of work. It was noted that the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) response time was 60 working days for Category 3 defects.

Concerns were raised by a member of the Joint Committee in relation to the proposed increase in Category 3 response times and suggested that there should have been an opportunity to scrutinise this report by each Authority prior to a decision being made by the Joint Committee. Following discussion, Councillor Douglas Reid indicated that East Ayrshire Councillors had received information at a recent seminar and, therefore, he considered that further scrutiny by East Ayrshire Council would not be required. It was noted that members of South Ayrshire Council should have the opportunity to scrutinise the report.

Following various questions by Members of the Joint Committee, Officers responded as follows:-

- (1) that for defect Categories 1 and 2, it was proposed that response times would remain unchanged;
- (2) that the utility companies had their own set of priority timeframes to adhere to and that, in terms of utility works which involved digging up roads, the Office of the Scottish Road Works Commissioner would be obtaining greater powers to encourage good working practices between utility companies and road authorities; and
- (3) that, in relation to a damaged part of the A77, the Head of Roads would inform Scotland Transerv as it had responsibility for trunk road networks.

The Joint Committee

**Decided:** to continue consideration of this matter to a future meeting of the Joint Committee to allow South Ayrshire Council to scrutinise the content of this report at a forthcoming meeting of its Partnership Panel.

## **5. Revenue Financial Monitoring Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of September 2018 by the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer, Economy and Skills, East Ayrshire Council, providing an update on the revenue budgeting monitoring position for the year to 22nd July 2018 for the Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

A Member of the Joint Committee asked a question in relation to a change in practice relating to traffic enforcement officers working in the evening and what were the benefits and financial implications of such a change. It was noted that this change had been implemented to target problem areas identified via Community Councils and to enforce legislation around illegal parking. It was further noted that a report on this matter would be submitted to a forthcoming meeting of South Ayrshire Council's Leadership Panel for its consideration of this proposed change.

In response to a question in relation to local delivery for East Ayrshire and the contract price increase for salt, the Group Finance Manager confirmed that this increase was per tonne.

The Joint Committee, having otherwise noted the content of the report

**Decided:**

- (1) to note the financial management position of the Ayrshire Roads Alliance;
- (2) to request a further financial update at the next meeting of the Joint Committee; and
- (3) to note that a report would be submitted to a forthcoming meeting of South Ayrshire Council's Leadership Panel for its consideration in relation to proposed changes to traffic enforcement officers working in the evening.

## 6. Roadworks Programme 2018/19.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6th August 2018 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advising of the progress being made with the road improvement programmes within East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire for financial year 2018-2019.

The Operations Manager provided an update in relation to the outcome of bids for East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire which had been made to the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme. He also advised that additional funds were now available from this scheme and that he was working on projects.

In response to a question in relation to developer contributions for safe walking routes to new schools, the Head of Roads advised that the Alliance has maximised developer contribution for this purpose. It was noted that a review of walking routes for existing schools was also undertaken with colleagues from education and, as requested, the Head of Roads would provide the Member with a response in relation to school walking routes within his specific area.

A query was raised by a Member in relation to white lining within a particular housing estate and the Operations Manager indicated that he would investigate the issue and discuss with his team and advise the Member accordingly.

Comments were made by a Member in relation to a biosphere meeting that he had recently attended when health issues had been raised around the use of LED lighting as well as the positioning of lights in certain areas. He circulated details regarding these issues. The Operations Manager advised that he would investigate further and report back to the Member in question as well as the biosphere group. In relation to whether there was any potential health issues associated with LEDs, he would investigate and report back to all Members of the Joint Committee.

Comments were made in respect of safety issues and signage for the sheltered housing complex in Troon. Also, Troon Community Council had concerns with the positioning of traffic calming between Loans and Barassie and it was noted that this matter was currently being investigated.

In response to a question relating to the difference between the programme cost and costs to date for route B743 near Mossblown / Mauchline, it was noted that the increase in costs were due to extended works as a result of the condition of the road as well as additional lengths of road being included within the project.

The Joint Committee, having otherwise noted the content of the report

**Decided:** to note the Ayrshire Roads Alliance works progress for 2018/19.

## 7. Report on Winter Service.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6th August 2018 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advising of the Winter Operations delivered over 2017/18 and highlighting a number of proposals for 2018/19 as outlined within sections 12 to 21 of the report.

A discussion took place in relation to the proposals around the change of night time gritting hours and it was noted that a wide consultation and risk assessment would be undertaken. The Operations Manager added that these proposals would also be fully discussed at the Cold Comfort seminars taking in place in Ayr and Kilmarnock in October where elected members and Community Councils would have an opportunity to provide feedback.

It was noted that the use of brine was an effective de-icing material and that there might be an opportunity for a brine demonstration at a later date.

In response to when any new housing development would be added to the gritting programme, it was noted that this was undertaken following the formal adoption of the road.

The Joint Committee, having otherwise noted the content of the report

**Decided:** to approve the proposals for maintaining the winter services across the Ayrshire Roads Alliance area.

The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.