

## REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 22 AUGUST 2019

### UPDATE ON NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE

#### 1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider the Annual report from the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee as attached at Appendix 1; and
- 1.2 Note the continued role of Aberdeenshire Council as the Lead Authority for the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee.

#### 2 Background/Discussion

- 2.1 On 30 June 2016 (Item 9) Aberdeenshire Council approved a report on the formation of a Joint Committee for Roads Collaboration. Whilst the first formal meeting of the Northern Roads Joint Committee was not held until 18 May 2018, the Joint Committee has now met on 4 occasions with a range of activities having been taken forward on a joint basis.
- 2.2 At the most recent meeting on 21 June 2019 in Forfar, the Joint Committee approved an annual report and recommended that each of the partners take that report back the most relevant Committee within their Authority. The Annual Report of the Northern Roads Joint Committee is attached at **Appendix 1** for consideration.
- 2.3 At the Joint Committee of 21 June 2019 the option to retain the current Chair through to May 2020 was discussed and the role of Lead Authority was confirmed as being retained by Aberdeenshire Council. These two issues would seem to reflect the positive way in which all partners have worked to support the Joint Committee.
- 2.4 The Joint Committee will continue to consider a range of joint working and procurement opportunities from road asset management planning and road casualty reduction through to the potential for inter-authority commissions on road design and the potential for shared contracts for materials and equipment.
- 2.5 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

#### 3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section F.6.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of

Governance as it relates to the ongoing work of the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee.

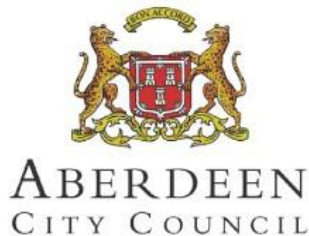
#### **4 Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the Committee is being asked to consider the annual report for the year and the matter does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are staffing and financial implications associated with participation in the Joint Committee. The costs of Aberdeenshire Council acting as Lead Authority are shared across the 7 partners and our share for 2018/19 was £7000. Working with partners has seen us generate £7185 of income where one of our teams was retained by a partner authority through the Joint Committee arrangements.
- 4.3 As this report details events which have already occurred there is no risk identified in terms of the Corporate or Service Risk Registers.
- 4.4 Some of the activities outlined in this report have taken or will take place in key Aberdeenshire towns. A Town Centre First Impact Assessment has not been conducted in the preparation of this report. However, as the interventions, strategies, projects and policies referred to in this report will be separately assessed.

**Stephen Archer**  
**Director of Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by Ewan Wallace, Head of Transportation  
6 August 2019

# Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee Annual Report 2018/19



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

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## Foreword

Local Government has a proud record of working across physical and professional boundaries for the benefit of our communities.

The Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee is an excellent example of just such an approach with the added dimension of being able to bring other agencies and authorities to the table. The area covered by the 7 member authorities covers 58% of Scotland with 19% of the population and 38% of the road network that supports a diverse and successful range of economic activities.

With similar issues to deal with across our Authorities and the common purpose of ensuring we have a safe, sustainable and efficient transport network our formal collaboration is a first in Scotland. The first year has seen steady progress and the Committee is keen to see more initiatives on our agenda that would enable joint working, increased resilience, knowledge transfer and reduced costs.

Any collaboration is only as strong as its members make it and I would like to thank all of the elected representatives and their officers for how we have worked proactively and positively over the last 12 months.

I look forward to the same approach over the next year and beyond.

Councillor Ellen Morton  
Chair of the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee

## **Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee**

The first meeting of the Joint Committee was held on 18 May 2018 in Woodhill House, Aberdeen.

The Committee had been preceded by an informal collaborative forum which had been established on the back of one of the workstreams under the national Roads Collaboration Program. That forum agreed that it should move to a formal Joint Committee arrangement and the appropriate papers were approved by each of the partner Authorities. The first meeting of the Joint Committee put in place the chairing and officer support arrangements.

The Joint Committee has subsequently met on three further occasions in the first 12 months;

- 31 August 2018 in the Argyll and Bute Council Chambers, Lochgilphead,
- 23 November 2018 in the Town House, Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen and
- 1 March 2019 in the Council Chambers, Moray Council, Elgin.

The Standing Orders for the Joint Committee allow for business to be conducted with members attending remotely. This has allowed a good level of attendance by members of the Committee and also by officers presenting reports. It has also reduced costs and minimised the carbon footprint compared to an approach requiring physical attendance. It is estimated that this has led to over 5200 miles of mainland business related travel being saved. The ability for representatives from Eilean Siar to attend remotely is estimated to have saved travel of over 3500 miles.

## **Collaborative Initiatives 2018/19**

SCRIM Contract issued for 2019 – 2022 – Approved by Joint Committee on 23 November 2018.

Coring Services for the National Coring Programme – Approved by Joint Committee on 23 November 2018.

Use of Recycled Plastic in Road Surfacing – First reported to Joint Committee on 23 November 2018 and officers are continuing to explore opportunities.

Safety Camera Operations – Reported to Joint Committee on 18 May 2018 and then updated with positive impacts on 1 March 2019.

Initial officer engagement with National Timber Transport Forum from March 2019

Initial engagement with BEAR Scotland – Officer liaison meeting held on 29 April 2019.

Road Safety Plan developed for Angus Council by Aberdeenshire Council following agreement at Joint Committee.

Shared use of Dredging Vessel – First reported to Joint Committee on 18 May 2018 and Agreement in principle reached 23 November 2018. Authority now with officers to share on basis of agreed rates.

Port Marine Safety Code – First reported to Joint Committee on 31 August 2018 and agreement in principle reached to proceed with joint framework.

Officer Workshop held on 8 February 2019.  
Officers meetings held via dial in – 27 July 2018, 19 November 2018, 30 January 2019 and 8 May 2019.

Updates on the Joint Committee work provided at SCOTS Meetings in 2018, 2019 and via the National Roads Collaboration Board.



## **National Activity 2018/19**

### **Workforce Planning**

- Successful Routes to Leadership course
- Co-ordination on Recruitment of Graduate Apprentices and establishment of new courses
- Foundation Apprentice placements
- Support to School Career Events
- Collaborative Training Academy

### **Collaborative Network Management**

- Scottish Road Network Management Forum
- Exploring collaboration opportunities with BEAR Scotland

### **Technical Projects**

- Research Project on the Value of the Local Road Network
- Position Paper on Plastic Roads
- Road Surfacing Material
- Sharing of Information and Best Practice

## Planning for the Future

The planned areas for the Joint Committee to consider in 2019/20 are as follows:

- Cobble Surface Specialist Repair
- Road Casualty Reduction and Road Safety Activity
- Road Design Functions
- Electric Vehicle Supporting Infrastructure Design and Supply/Maintenance
- Strategic Road Asset Management Plan Activity
- Consideration of national transport infrastructure in support of the emerging National Transport Strategy

These will be built into a formal Activity Plan to be presented to the Autumn Meeting.

The meetings will continue to be rotated across partners but with a focus on the ability to utilise technology to conduct the business.

## **Costs and Funding**

The central support costs to operate the Joint Committee in 2018/19 were £14,400.

These have been split as per the approach agreed in May 2018. No formal bids for funding support have been made to national agencies or partner authorities at this time.

The Joint Committee also receives support from the Roads Collaboration Programme (RCP) officers retained by the Improvement Service. The RCP is funded by Transport Scotland and the 32 Local Authorities.

The Joint Committee and the Officer Group are also supported by a nominated officer representative from Transport Scotland whilst 3 of the Regional Transport Partnerships are also included in the Lead Officer Group that supports the Committee.

Members and officers time and expenses are covered by each authority.

## Appendix 1 - Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee and Officers

|                                  | <b>Members</b>                                   | <b>Substitute Members</b>                     | <b>Officer</b>  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Aberdeen City Council</b>     | Councillor M Hutchison<br>Councillor R Grant     | Councillor S Macdonald<br>Councillor A Nicoll | Doug Ritchie  |
| <b>Aberdeenshire Council</b>     | Councillor P Argyle<br>Councillor D Aitchison    | Councillor J Cox<br>Councillor A Kloppert     | Ewan Wallace<br>Philip McKay<br><br>Legal Officer<br>Ruth O'Hare<br>Committee Officer<br>Jan McRobbie |
| <b>Angus Council</b>             | Councillor B Durno<br>Councillor R Sturrock      | Councillor R Proctor<br>Councillor B Duff     | Douglas Hill  |
| <b>Argyll &amp; Bute Council</b> | Councillor E Morton<br>Councillor R McCuish      |   | Jim Smith   |
| <b>Highland Council</b>          | Councillor A Henderson<br>Councillor T Robertson | Councillor K Gowans<br>Councillor L MacDonald | Robin Pope<br>Tracey Urry<br><br>Finance Officer<br>Mike Mitchell                                     |

|                              | <b>Members</b>                                 | <b>Substitute Members</b>                      | <b>Officer</b>                  |
|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Moray Council</b>         | Councillor G Cowie<br>Councillor T Coull       |  | Stephen Cooper<br>Mark Atherton |
| <b>Western Isles Council</b> | Councillor U Robertson<br>Councillor K MacLeod | Councillor M Macleod<br>Councillor J N Macleod | Callum Mackenzie                |



## NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE



Aberdeenshire  
COUNCIL



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR



Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE to be held in COMMITTEE ROOM 5, WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, on FRIDAY, 18 MAY, 2018, at 1.00 PM.

A light lunch will be available in advance of the meeting, from 12.15 PM.

11 May, 2018

Director of Business Services

TO: Councillors R Grant and M Hutchison, (Aberdeen City Council); PJ Argyle and D Aitchison, (Aberdeenshire Council); R Sturrock and B Durno, (Angus Council); R McCuish and E Morton, (Argyll and Bute Council); U Robertson and K MacLeod (Cohairle nan Eilean Siar); G Cowie and M Macrae, (Moray Council); and A Henderson and T Robertson, (The Highland Council).

### Substitute Members

Aberdeen City Council Substitute Members:- Councillors S Macdonald and A Nicoll;

Aberdeenshire Council Substitute Members:- Councillors J Cox and A Kloppert;

Angus Council Substitute Members:- Councillors R Proctor and B Duff;

Cohairle nan Eilean Siar Substitute Members:- Councillors I M Macleod and J N Macleod; and

The Highland Council Substitute Members:- Councillors K Gowans and L MacDonald.

***Please note that a substitute member may only participate in the meeting when a substantive member is absent.***

Contact Person:-

Name: Jan McRobbie

Tel: 01467 538371

Email:- [jan.mcrobbie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:jan.mcrobbie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

## B U S I N E S S

1. Welcome, Introduction, and Housekeeping - Ewan Wallace, Chair of Lead Officers' Group
2. Sederunt and Declaration of Members' Interests
3. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair – Report by Ewan Wallace, Chair of Lead Officers' Group. (Page 3)
4. Statement on Equalities: (Page 4)  
Consider, and if so decided, adopt:- “In line with the Joint Committee’s legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010, the Joint Committee, in making  
(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;  
(b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and  
(c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
5. Adoption of Standing Orders – Report by Ewan Wallace, Chair of Lead Officers' Group. (Pages 5-21)
6. Appointment of Lead Authority and Support Arrangements to The Joint Committee – Report by Ewan Wallace, Chair of Lead Officers' Group. (Pages 22-25)
7. Collaborative Options for Dredging – Report by Stephen Cooper, Moray Council. (Pages 26-29)
8. Collaborative Options for Harbour and Marine Works – Report by Jim Smith, Argyll and Bute Council. (TO FOLLOW)
9. Collaborative Options for Design Services – Report by Douglas Hill, Angus Council. (Pages 30-31)
10. Road Casualty Reduction Collaborations – Report by Ewan Wallace, Aberdeenshire Council. (Pages 32-36)
11. National Roads Collaboration Update – Report by Angus Bodie, The Improvement Service. (Pages 37-41)
12. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates/ Venues – Chair



## NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE



**Aberdeenshire**  
COUNCIL



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR



Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE to be held in Council Chambers, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT, on FRIDAY, 31 AUGUST, 2018 AT 11.00AM.

A light working lunch will be available at the meeting.

24 August, 2018

Director of Business Services

TO: Councillors R Grant and M Hutchison, (Aberdeen City Council); PJ Argyle and D Aitchison, (Aberdeenshire Council); R Sturrock and B Durno, (Angus Council); R McCuish and E Morton, (Argyll and Bute Council); U Robertson and K MacLeod (Cohairle nan Eilean Siar); G Cowie and M Macrae, (Moray Council); and A Henderson and T Robertson, (The Highland Council).

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Contact Person:-

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## BUSINESS

1. Welcome and Housekeeping
2. Sederunt and Declaration of Members' Interests
3. Appointment of Vice-Chair – Oral report
4. Statement on Equalities:  

Consider, and if so decided, adopt :- “In line with the Joint Committee’s legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010, the Joint Committee, in making decisions on the attached reports will have due regard to the need to:

  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
5. Minute of Meeting of 18 May, 2018 TO FOLLOW
6. Collaboration Options for Sharing of Professional Services – Report by Douglas Hill, Manager – Roads Asset Management, Angus Council (Pages 4-8)
7. Strategic Road Asset Management – Report by Angus Bodie, The Improvement Service and Ewan Wallace, Head of Transportation, Aberdeenshire Council (Pages 9-13)
8. Collaborative Options For Dredging- Report Prepared By Stephen Cooper, Head Of Direct Services, Moray Council (Pages 14-16)
9. Port Marine Safety Code TO FOLLOW
10. Transport Scotland Update on Trunk Road Contracts and Collaborative Opportunitie - Donald Morrison, Transport Scotland (Oral)
11. Future Items for Consideration as an agenda item.
12. Date of Next Meeting – Friday 23 November, 2018

## NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE



Aberdeenshire  
COUNCIL



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR



Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE to be held in Committee Room 2, The Town House, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen on Friday 23 November, 2018 at 11.00am.

A light working lunch will be available at the meeting.  
Remote participation will be via Skype.

16 November, 2018

Director of Business Services

To: Councillors R Grant and M Hutchison, (Aberdeen City Council); PJ Argyle and D Aitchison, (Aberdeenshire Council); R Sturrock and B Durno, (Angus Council); R McCuish and E Morton, (Argyll and Bute Council); U Robertson and K MacLeod (Cohairle nan Eilean Siar); G Cowie and G Leadbitter, (Moray Council); and A Henderson and T Robertson, (The Highland Council).

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## BUSINESS

1. Welcome and Housekeeping
2. Sederunt and Declaration of Members' Interests
3. Statement on Equalities:  

Consider, and if so decided, adopt :- "In line with the Joint Committee's legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010, the Joint Committee, in making decisions on the attached reports will have due regard to the need to:

  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
4. Minute of Meeting of 31 August, 2018 **TO FOLLOW**
5. Update on the Procurement of Network Management Contracts (NMCs) for the Scottish Trunk Road Network – Report by Trevor McIlhatton, Area Manager, Transport Scotland (Pages 3-5)
6. Use of Recycled Plastic in Road Surfacing – Report by Angus Bodie, Programme Manager, Roads Collaboration Programme (Pages 6-14)
7. National Roads Collaboration Programme Update – Report by Angus Bodie, Programme Manager, Roads Collaboration Programme (Pages 15-17)
8. Procurement of Coring Services for the National Coring Programme – Report by John Bruce, Roads Policy Officer, Aberdeenshire Council (Pages 18-19)
9. Procurement of SCRIM Survey Services – Report by John Bruce, Roads Policy Officer, Aberdeenshire Council (Pages 20-21)
10. Strategic Roads Asset Management – Update - Report by Angus Bodie, Programme Manager, Roads Collaboration Programme (Pages 22-27)
11. Ports/Harbours and Marine Opportunities – Report by Jim Smith, Chief Officer, Argyll & Bute Council **TO FOLLOW**
12. Future Items for Consideration as an agenda item.
13. Date of Future Meetings – to consider:  

1 or 8 March, 2019; and  
21 or 28 June, 2019.

## NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE



**Aberdeenshire**  
COUNCIL



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR



Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE to be held in the Council Chambers, Moray Council, ELGIN on Friday 1 March, 2019 at 11.00am.

A light working lunch will be available at the meeting.  
Remote participation will be via Skype.

22 February, 2019

Director of Business Services

To: Councillors R Grant and M Hutchison, (Aberdeen City Council); PJ Argyle and D Aitchison, (Aberdeenshire Council); R Sturrock and B Durno, (Angus Council); R McCuish and E Morton, (Argyll and Bute Council); U Robertson and K MacLeod (Cohairle nan Eilean Siar); G Cowie and G Leadbitter, (Moray Council); and A Henderson and T Robertson, (The Highland Council).

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## BUSINESS

1. Welcome and Housekeeping
2. Sederunt and Declaration of Members' Interests
- 3A. Statement on Equalities.

Consider, and if so decided, adopt the following:- "In line with the its legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council, in making decisions on the attached reports, shall have due regard to the need to:-

- (i) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (iii) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it."

- 3B. Exempt Information.

Consider, and if so decided, adopt the following resolution:- "That under Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting for Items 11 and 12 of the business below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act."

4. Minute of Meeting of 23 November, 2018 **(Pages 5-9)**
5. Roads Design Function – Report by Ewan Wallace, Head of Transportation, Aberdeenshire Council **(Pages 10-30)**
6. Strategic Roads Asset Management – Progress Update – Report by Angus Bodie, Programme Manager, Roads Collaboration Programme **(Pages 31-42)**
7. National Roads Collaboration Programme Update – Report by Angus Bodie, Programme Manager, Roads Collaboration Programme **(Pages 43-45)**
8. Revised Safety Camera Operations – Report by Ewan Wallace, Head of Transportation, Aberdeenshire Council **(Pages 46-47)**
9. Future Items for Consideration as an agenda item.