

## Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee

### REPORT TO NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE – 21 JUNE 2019

#### REVIEW OF SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS AND FINANCIAL MONITORING

##### 1 Recommendations

The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Agree that Aberdeenshire Council shall continue in the role of Lead Authority to the Joint Committee;
- 1.2 Agree that the support arrangements as approved by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 16 May 2018, and as detailed in this report, shall continue;
- 1.3 Instruct the Lead Officer to review the support arrangements on an annual basis and report to the Joint Committee only in the event that changes are required; and
- 1.4 Note the financial information at paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7.

##### 2 Background/Discussion

###### Support Arrangements

- 2.1 The Minute of Agreement entered into by the Member Councils details the arrangements for support to the Joint Committee to ensure the Committee has the necessary resource to fulfil its remit. This includes appointing a Lead Authority to facilitate the provision of key support services including legal, financial, and Committee support.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 16 May 2018, the Joint Committee agreed to appoint Aberdeenshire Council as Lead Authority. The Joint Committee further agreed that legal and Committee support would be provided by Aberdeenshire, with financial support provided by Highland Council.
- 2.3 The Joint Committee was also asked to agree audit support from Audit Scotland. However, the requirement for audit has since been investigated further and it has been determined that the statutory basis for constitution of the Joint Committee does not establish a requirement for audit.
- 2.4 Over the past year the support arrangements have worked well, and the Officers' Group is in agreement that the status quo should be maintained. There is therefore no proposal to amend from what was previously agreed at Committee on 16 May 2018, and the Joint Committee is asked to agree that the support arrangements continue on that basis, with Aberdeenshire Council as Lead Authority.

## Financial Statement and Forecast

- 2.5 The Minute of Agreement further provides that the Joint Committee shall approve an annual financial statement and receive an annual financial forecast for consideration.
- 2.6 The financial statement for 2018/2019 is as undernoted. The charges incurred by the Member Authorities relate to the costs of the support for Committee, legal, and financial services from both Aberdeenshire and Highland Councils. This reflects the forecast for the year which was reported to the Joint Committee at its meeting in May 2018, with the only addition being a small cost for the provision of legal advice in relation to a shared procurement.

	<b>Cost of Supporting the Joint Committee</b>	<b>Cost of Supporting Project Initiatives</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Finance Costs	£0	£0	£0
Legal Costs	£6,720	£186.69	£6,906.69
Committee Services Costs	£7,680		£7,680
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£14,400</b>	<b>£186.69</b>	<b>£14,586.69</b>

- 2.7 The financial forecast for 2019/2020 is as undernoted. It is envisaged that there may be additional budget created for this financial year in respect of ongoing projects. The project costs for the Strategic Business Case for Roads Asset Management have been incorporated. Any amendments to the financial forecast as a result of further projects will be reported back to this Committee.

	<b>Cost of Supporting the Joint Committee</b>	<b>Cost of Supporting Project Initiatives</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Finance Costs	£0	£0	£0
Legal Costs	£6,720	£0	£6,720
Committee Services Costs	£7,680		£7,680
Project Costs		£5,000	£5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£14,400</b>	<b>£5,000</b>	<b>£19,400.00</b>

- 2.8 The Joint Committee's Legal Monitoring Officer within Aberdeenshire Council and Financial Monitoring Officer within the Highland Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies relevant legislation.

## 3 Implications and Risk

- 3.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the report relates to procedural matters in relation to the Joint Committee and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

- 3.2 The costs of support provision to the Joint Committee shall form part of the operating costs which will be borne equally by the Member Councils.
- 3.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter; the Joint Committee will require appropriate professional support in order to fulfil its functions and in the absence of same there is a risk that decisions will be taken without proper advice and information.

**Ewan Wallace**  
**Lead Officer**

Report prepared by Ruth O'Hare, Principal Solicitor, Aberdeenshire Council  
17 June 2019