



**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 19 OCTOBER 2021**

**SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: UPDATE ON NORTHERN ROADS
COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND
FINANCE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 At the most recent meeting on 25 June 2021, the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee approved an Annual Report and recommended that each of the partners take that report back to the relevant Committee within their Authority.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee in terms of paragraph III (F) (15) of the Scheme of Administration relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Roads Authority.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to make members aware of the work being undertaken by the Northern Roads Collaboration of which Moray Council is a partner. The terms of the Minute of Agreement between the Member Authorities provide that an Annual Report will be submitted to each Authority on the work of the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee.
- 2.2 On 12 October 2016 Moray Council approved a report on the formation of a Joint Committee for Roads Collaboration (paragraph 11 of the Minute refers). Since its first formal meeting on 18 May 2018, the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee has now met on a total of 12 occasions with a range of activities having been taken forward on a joint basis. Three of these meetings took place in financial year 2020/21 which is the period covered by the attached Annual Report.
- 2.3 At the most recent meeting on 25 June 2021, the Joint Committee approved an Annual Report and recommended that each of the partners take that report back to the relevant Committee within their Authority. The Annual Report of the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee for 2020/21 is attached as **Appendix 1** for consideration.

3. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

Several objectives of the projects undertaken to date are influenced by the condition of the public roads network. Effective budget management is an essential component of delivery of LOIP priorities on a sustainable basis.

A Growing, Diverse and Sustainable Economy – the public road network is used by all sections of society, to access shops and services and to transport goods within and to and from Moray.

Empowering and connecting communities – The Annual Report at **Appendix 1** does flag a number of opportunities for ongoing and future collaboration and officers will seek to develop these with colleagues across the other 6 Local Authorities, 3 Regional Transport Partnerships and Transport Scotland.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no implications. Aberdeenshire Council acts as the lead authority for the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee.

(c) Financial implications

The costs of Aberdeenshire Council acting as Lead Authority are shared across the 7 partners and our share (Moray Council) for 2020/21 was £882. Whilst there are no cost savings directly identified by our continued involvement in this partnership it provides members and officers with contacts in other local authorities, strong and direct links with Transport Scotland and also the wider opportunity for knowledge sharing. It also provides the platform for future collaboration for example on delivering design services, the scale to reduce costs in the implementation and purchase of alternative fuel technologies and possible shared working practices with Trunk Road Operators.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications as a result of this report. As this report details events which have already occurred there is no risk identified in terms of the Corporate or Directorate Risk Registers.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications as a result of this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications as a result of this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

There are no equalities implications as a result of this report because the Committee is being asked to consider the Annual Report for financial year 2020/21 and the matter does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

(h) Consultations

Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, Principal Accountant, Legal Services Manager, the Equal Opportunities Officer and L Rowan, Committee Services Officer have been consulted and any comments taken into consideration.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The report highlights the success of the Northern Roads Joint Committee and details examples of collaborative working across physical and professional boundaries for the benefits of our communities.

4.2 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. This last year has seen further steady progress and the Joint Committee is keen to see additional initiatives on our agenda that would enable joint working, increased resilience, knowledge transfer and reduced costs.

Author of Report: Mark Atherton, Roads Maintenance Manager

Background Papers:

Ref: SPMAN-524642768-500