

— THE OFFICE OF THE —

# SCOTTISH ROAD WORKS COMMISSIONER

## PUBLIC SERVICES REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

### SUSTAINABILITY, EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS AND ECONOMY STATEMENT

The Scottish Road Works Commissioner (SRWC) has a duty to report measures taken to promote and increase sustainable growth and to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in exercising his functions. This is the SRWC's statement for the financial year **1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017**

#### FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER

As set out in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005, there are three statutory functions that the Commissioner is required to undertake –

- (a) Monitoring the carrying out of works in roads in Scotland;
- (b) Promoting compliance with the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 Act and the obligations imposed under it; and
- (c) Promoting the pursuit of good practice.

#### EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS AND ECONOMY

The office of the Scottish Road Works Commissioner (oSRTC) is a small organisation, with 5 members of staff in addition to the Commissioner. Every effort was taken during 2016/17 to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in terms of managing the office.

##### EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

The majority of the oSRWC resources are dedicated to meeting the statutory obligations set out by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005. To achieve this, the majority of the oSRWC's financial resource is spent on staffing. Further to the review of roles and responsibilities, in 2015-16, office staffing has remained at level of 5 staff in addition to the Commissioner.

The staff working for the Commissioner are the main asset for the organisation. To ensure a level of retention and development, the Commissioner has continued to identify ways to support and develop staff. This has included introducing Sage Financial Accounting to the office to manage financial transactions and improve financial recording for the public body. Implementation of this system has resulted in development of the Business Officer to manage this responsibility and meant that there has been no reason to replace the fulltime accountant who worked with SRWC last financial year. Accountancy support is now sought on a required basis from a Chartered Accountant. This has represented a significant saving for the organisation.

##### ECONOMY

Unlike a number of similar organisations, the Office of the Scottish Road Works Commissioner is located in Saughton House, which is part of the Scottish Government estate. The annual cost is estimated to be approximately 25% of the cost of leasing commercial premises. In addition to the financial benefit of co-location, the oSRWC also utilises the following shared services, benefiting from economies of scale:

- IT, payroll and pension services provided by the Scottish Government.
- Scottish Government banking services, including the cost benefits from the competitive rates.
- Scottish Government SEAS payment system.

Procurement of major services such as the supply of the Scottish Road Works Register has been by means of competitive tender. The re-tender for the Scottish Road Works Register (2016/17) is currently on going and the Commissioner has engaged the support and resources of Scottish Government specialists to reduce the procurement costs and risks

## SUSTAINABILITY

The Commissioner’s primary functions are those laid out in the Transport (Scotland) 2005 and are detailed at the start of this report. The oSRWC is a small organisation with a specific remit. It is challenging to make a significant contribution to sustainable growth, however, the oSRWC uses all reasonable endeavours in pursuance of sustainability through management of staff and resources.

### CARBON MANAGEMENT

The oSRWC is accommodated within a Scottish Government building and as such, benefits from facilities provided by the Scottish Government for Carbon Management. In pursuance of sustainability, the staff of the oSRWC are encouraged to:

- Reduce the need to travel.
- To take public transport/pooled vehicle if travel is necessary.
- Choose more sustainable transport for commuting, if possible.
- Use recycling facilities where available in Saughton House.
- Use recycled office materials where possible.

In order to reduce travel by personal vehicle, in 2015/16 the Commissioner provided a pool vehicle for use by staff on official business. For example, this is the second year where oSRWC have been able to combine journey to the Annual HAUC event, travelling together, reducing the need for flights. The use of the pool vehicle, managed by SRWC, has also significantly reduced expense claims by the oSRWC team.

### PURSUANCE OF COMMISSIONER’S FUNCTIONS

In undertaking the functions outlined above, the Commissioner contributes towards improved planning, co-ordination and quality of road works in Scotland. This, in turn, leads to a reduction in the disruption caused by such works and contributes towards sustainable growth within Scotland. Less disruption means less delay. Reduced delays on roads can reduce carbon emissions.

The SRWC currently sponsors two Scottish Roads Research Board (SRRB) projects to further innovate road works in Scotland. Both projects focus on Long Term Damage to roads as a consequence of utility company reinstatements looking specifically at “Compaction” and “Joints”. Improvement and innovation in these fields would contribute to a reduction in disruption caused by road works and deliver cost savings to roads authorities.

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