

<b>THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL</b> Community Services: Highland Area		Scheme <b>RAUC</b> <b>Local Co-ordination Meeting</b>		
<b>SUMMARY NOTES OF MEETING</b>		Job No.	File No.	No. of Pages 8 + <b>Appendices</b>
		Meeting held to Discuss: Various <b>Date/Time of Meeting:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10.30am		
Issue Date*	09/02/2022	Author	Catriona Maxwell	Draft No. 2

REF		ACTIONS
1.0	<p><b>Attending / Contact Details</b></p> <p><i>Highland Council Community Services; Area Roads</i>  Alistair MacLeod <a href="mailto:alistair.macleod5@highland.gov.uk">alistair.macleod5@highland.gov.uk</a>  Alison MacLeod <a href="mailto:alison.macleod3@highland.gov.uk">alison.macleod3@highland.gov.uk</a>  Iain Moncrieff <a href="mailto:iain.moncrieff@highland.gov.uk">iain.moncrieff@highland.gov.uk</a>  Jonathan Gunn <a href="mailto:jonathan.gunn@highland.gov.uk">jonathan.gunn@highland.gov.uk</a>  Andrew MacIver <a href="mailto:andrew.maciver@highland.gov.uk">andrew.maciver@highland.gov.uk</a>  Donald Henderson <a href="mailto:donald.henderson2@highland.gov.uk">donald.henderson2@highland.gov.uk</a>  Adam Lapinski <a href="mailto:adam.lapinski@highland.gov.uk">adam.lapinski@highland.gov.uk</a>  Holly Fraser <a href="mailto:holly.fraser@highland.gov.uk">holly.fraser@highland.gov.uk</a>  Lucy Tonkin <a href="mailto:lucy.tonkin@highland.gov.uk">lucy.tonkin@highland.gov.uk</a>  Catriona Maxwell <a href="mailto:catriona.maxwell@highland.gov.uk">catriona.maxwell@highland.gov.uk</a></p> <p><i>Openreach</i>  Duncan MacLennan <a href="mailto:duncan.maclennan@openreach.co.uk">duncan.maclennan@openreach.co.uk</a></p> <p><i>Scottish Gas Networks</i>  Alex Torrance <a href="mailto:alex.torrance@sgn.co.uk">alex.torrance@sgn.co.uk</a></p> <p><i>Scottish &amp; Southern Energy</i>  Gary Hay <a href="mailto:gary.hay3@sse.com">gary.hay3@sse.com</a>  Andrew Ewing <a href="mailto:andrew.ewing@sse.com">andrew.ewing@sse.com</a></p> <p><i>Scottish Water</i>  Darren Pointer <a href="mailto:darren.pointer@scottishwater.co.uk">darren.pointer@scottishwater.co.uk</a>  Emma West <a href="mailto:Emma.West@scottishwater.co.uk">Emma.West@scottishwater.co.uk</a></p> <p><i>Bear Scotland</i>  Mike Gray <a href="mailto:mgray@bearsotland.co.uk">mgray@bearsotland.co.uk</a></p> <p><i>Network Rail</i>  David Murdoch <a href="mailto:David.Murdoch@networkrail.co.uk">David.Murdoch@networkrail.co.uk</a></p>	
2.0	<p><b>Apologies / Others</b></p> <p>Stuart Bruce <a href="mailto:stuart.bruce@highland.gov.uk">stuart.bruce@highland.gov.uk</a>  John Allan <a href="mailto:john.allan@highland.gov.uk">john.allan@highland.gov.uk</a>  Kyle Mackie <a href="mailto:kyle.mackie@highland.gov.uk">kyle.mackie@highland.gov.uk</a>  Mark Smith <a href="mailto:mark.smith@highland.gov.uk">mark.smith@highland.gov.uk</a>  Kirsten Donald <a href="mailto:kirsten.donald@highland.gov.uk">kirsten.donald@highland.gov.uk</a></p>	

### 3.0 Minutes of previous Highland RAUC Meeting

Previous Minutes Accepted

### 4.0 Highland Council, Community Services, Roads & Transport:

#### Inverness

Steven Grant has provided a copy of the Highland Council (Inverness Area) road surfacing and surface dressing works programmes (draft copies) proposed for the 2022/2023 financial year and these have been added to Appendix 1. Alistair Macleod has advised if anyone would like to discuss the proposed works please do not hesitate to contact Steven Grant or Alistair Macleod himself.

Alistair Macleod also discussed the Union Street, Inverness road closure on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January due to a static crane needing to be removed from the former Arnott's building that is now being redeveloped. Alistair Macleod advised that a crane will be taken in to remove the static crane and so a road closure is required.

Alex Torrance from SGN (Scottish Gas Networks) also wanted to highlight to the RAUC Meeting their request for a city centre road closure in Strothers Lane to enable SGN to provide a gas connection to an adjacent property.

Alex Torrance advised that SGN have been working with Transport and Stagecoach to try and agree suitable dates for all those parties that would be impacted by the road closure.

Donald Henderson from Highland Council Roads and Transport advised that Stagecoach would prefer for the works and road closure to take place over a weekend and asked Alex Torrance if this was a possibility? Alex Torrance advised that it was unlikely the work would take place over a weekend as the only work that should now take place by SGN over weekends is emergency work. Alex Torrance advised that the Health and Safety Executive had stressed that the 'Fatigue Management Policy' was paramount and only emergency works should take place on weekends and not scheduled works. Donald Henderson understood the SGN position and said that Stagecoach had advised that they would probably accept the works could not take place over a weekend. Alex Torrance will contact Stagecoach once dates have been agreed for the work to be carried out.

Alistair Macleod also drew attention to a couple events that will require extensive road closures in and around the riverside in Inverness.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 the Inverness Half Marathon and 5K Event takes place. Closures of the following roads will come into fruition on this date, they are: Bught Avenue; Bught Road, Ness Walk Upper; Bishops Road; Ardross Terrace; Ness walk; Castle Road (northbound lane closure); Island Bank Road (northbound lane closure); Dores Road (northbound lane closure); Ness bank and Cavell Gardens Road; B862 Inverness – Dores Road (closed to southbound traffic between Holm Roundabout and Torbreck Road Junction); C10 Torbreck Road; A8080 Inverness Southern Distributor Road (between its junction with Holm Roundabout and Ness Side Roundabout). The Infirmary Bridge will also be closed during this event.

Also, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Etape Loch Ness (cycling event) will result in the closures of the following roads: A82 Inverness – Fort Augustus; B862 between Fort Augustus and Dalcrag; B852 between Dalcrag, Foyers and Dores; B862 between Dores and Holm Roundabout; Dores Road (northbound lane); Island Bank Road (northbound lane); Haugh Road (northbound lane); Castle Road (northbound lane); Ness walk; Ardross Terrace; Bishops Road; Ness Walk Upper; Bught Road; Bught

Avenue; Bught Drive; Inverness Southern Distributor Road (between Holm Roundabout and Ness Side Roundabout). The Infirmary Bridge will also be closed during this event.

#### Lochaber, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey

Mark Smith has forwarded the Lochaber Area proposed list of surfacing schemes along with a 'wish list' of schemes that are awaiting confirmation of funding sources. The Lochaber resurfacing proposals have been added to Appendix 2. Mark Smith has advised he hopes to follow on with a list of the surfacing schemes to be promoted in Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey, and these can be added to the appendix when received.

#### Ross & Cromarty

Iain Moncrieff has provided an Area Capital Programme for this financial year 2022/2023 and this has been added to Appendix 3. Iain Moncrieff noted that works above the 'red line' were okay to go, but any under the 'red line' were not and might need or were subject to funding.

Iain Moncrieff also advised that there were still some outstanding scheme works to do such as those at: Fearn Junction, Tain; Braehead, Cromarty and Seaforth Road, Muir Of Ord. Iain Moncrieff has advised he can send through a list of any outstanding works and these can be added to the appendix when received.

#### Caithness & Sutherland

Jonathan Gunn will send a copy of the draft programme works for the 2022/2023 financial year that can be added to the appendix when received.

Jonathan advised that Caithness had finished their surfacing programme for this financial year and that Sutherland had roughly 4 weeks of surfacing left to do which has been scheduled for March.

#### Skye

Gordon Macdonald has forwarded a Highland Council (Skye and Raasay Area) road surfacing and surfacing works programmes (draft copies) for the 2022/2023 financial year. This road surfacing and surfacing works programme has been added to Appendix 4.

## **5.0 Street Lighting**

#### Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey

Holly Fraser has provided a Street Lighting Programme of Works for the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey and the Ross and Cromarty Areas which can be found in Appendix 5.

Holly highlighted some works due to take place over the next few days and weeks, such as: replacing the cable fault between two columns in Wellside Place, Balloch and replacing the underground cabling and installing additional columns at the Inshes Mews Development Area. Holly also highlighted that there we large number of faults that needed to be looked at generally within the area.

#### Ross & Cromarty

Appendix 5 details some Street Lighting Programme of Works for Ross and

Cromarty. Holly Fraser highlighted the replacement of old cabling and columns work due to start in early March on the A835 at Ullapool for roughly 4 weeks and that the replacement of old cabling and columns in Achiltibuie with works due to start on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 for roughly 6 weeks.

#### Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross

In advance of the meeting Kyle Mackie advised Alistair Macleod that in the next few weeks there would be: some street lighting column replacements in Angus Court and Oldfield Court, Thurso and cable replacement in Queens Terrace, Thurso.

#### Lochaber

No representative was present.

#### Skye

No representative was present.

### **6.0 Project Design Unit**

A programme of PDU Schemes provided by Andrew Maciver is attached to Appendix 6.

Andrew advised if there were any questions/queries regarding the attached programme please do not hesitate to contact him directly.

Andrew also said he would be contacting Mike Gray at Bear (Scotland) Ltd about the TTRO (Temporary Traffic Regulation Order) in relation to the Uig Harbour redevelopment Works.

Andrew Maciver made his apologies as he had to leave the RAUC Meeting early due to another scheduled appointment.

### **7.0 Trunk Road Issues – Bear (Scotland) Ltd**

Mike Gray has provided a maintenance and resurfacing works programme that can be found in Appendix 7 and 8 respectively.

Mike Gray advised of the overnight road closure currently taking place at Fort Augustus due to the Swing Bridge work. Mike Gray advised that the work was due to complete on the morning of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022.

Also highlighted by Mike Gray was an overnight road closure due to take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 at Laggan for roughly 5 nights from 21:45hrs to 05:00 hrs – Mike advised that this closure had been delayed due to resurfacing at Glencoe which was a priority.

The A9 Craigory to Allangrange just north of Inverness a one lane closure will take place out with peak times from 09:30hrs to 15:30hrs to accommodate the installation of VMS (variable message signs) to notify drivers of any traffic reports, for example 'beware of low temperatures' forecast etc. Planned dates for these works are 06<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Mike Gray also drew attention to the Ultra X marathon due to take place on the 07<sup>th</sup> and 08<sup>th</sup> May 2022 starting at Queen's Park, Inverness and through the Great Glen Way. Mike Gray advised that the plan is for the event runners to stick to footpaths and that any road crossings would hopefully be marshalled, however, there is the issue at the start of the race with event runners which will number roughly 150 coming out of Queen's Park and coming onto the road which might then require a

TTRO (Temporary Traffic regulation Order) for the event on the trunk road? Alistair Macleod said that he will look at this in greater detail and enquire with the Police if they have been notified about the event. Alistair Macleod said that he will contact Mike Gray to discuss this event in greater detail at a later date.

## **8.0 Network Rail**

David Murdoch has provided a Network Rail Works Report which can be found in Appendix 9.

Major works highlighted by David Murdoch by Network Rail are the: B9154 Daviot to Dalmagarry via Moy - renewal of entire railway bridge structure works that are ongoing with the works scheduled to end on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Also discussed by David Murdoch and Alistair Macleod was the TTRO (Temporary Traffic regulation Order) for the road closure planned at Moy. Alistair Macleod advised that he had the TTRO waiting to be signed by a solicitor, however the road closure dates had not yet been confirmed. David Murdoch said he would confirm the closure dates and get back to Alistair ASAP as soon as he had these.

David Murdoch also highlighted that there were quite a few overnight road closures to be aware of in February due to engineering works and that the overnight road closures should commence from 22:00hrs to 05:00hrs. Such works and road closure details can be found in Appendix 9.

David Murdoch stressed that if there were any queries regarding the Network Rail Works Report then please do not hesitate to contact him.

## **9.0 Planned Works - Utilities**

### **BT Openreach**

Duncan MacLennan has provided a works programme which can be found in Appendix 10.

Duncan MacLennan advised that all works are on the register and if there are any queries/issues to please contact him directly.

Also, highlighted by Duncan MacLennan was the BT Openreach R100 project which has started in Wick. Reiterated by Duncan MacLennan was the fact it was a government backed programme to roll out 'Superfast Broadband' to those areas that currently do not have access to it. Duncan MacLennan also advised that Rhona Anderson is the project manager for the R100 project and would be the main contact if there were any issues/queries, and that Shaun Munro was the project manager and main contact for the commercial side of the project.

Alistair Macleod asked if Duncan MacLennan could liaise with Shaun Munro and ask his permission for his name and contact details be added to future RAUC invites/meetings.

### **Scotland Gas Networks (SGN)**

Alex Torrance advised that they have only one approved project for 2022/2023 as yet for the Ashie Road Area in Inverness. This project is for mains renewal in the area and is hopefully due to start in March/April 2022 and should complete around Christmas 2022.

Alex Torrance also hinted that the future works yet to be approved and that were imminent in the near future would be: the replacement of a couple of 100 metres of mains pipe situated underneath the A96. Alex Torrance said that they would be in

close consultation with Bear (Scotland) Ltd to discuss and plan.

Also, it was noted that the works at Post Avenue, Inverness have now been completed.

### **Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE)**

Andrew Ewing has provided a copy of the SSEN Transmission works list which can be found in Appendix 11. Andrew Ewing also advised that currently there were very little works in the Highland area, however he advised that he can be contacted directly if anyone needed to discuss anything.

Gary Hay reiterated that it was very quiet in the Highland area with very few jobs being worked on at present. It was also advised that the project manager for the area was leaving his position, so at present jobs were being distributed throughout the company while a replacement was sought.

### **Scottish Water**

Emma West stated that everything was reactive for her team and that everything is on the register.

Darren Pointer has provided a list of works for Scottish Water and these can be found in Appendix 12.

Darren Pointer raised the issue of the current traffic management on the A831 which means that Scottish Water cannot start their works to excavate within the A82 as well as the A831 until these have been removed. Alistair Macleod advised Darren Pointer that the traffic management should hopefully be removed by the 11<sup>th</sup> February by the Highland Council's contractor R J Macleod for the flood protection project.

Darren Pointer also added that due to the Etape Loch Ness Cycling Event being held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April on the A82 and for the requirement of Scottish Water's own contractors having to remove any traffic management during the event this would be an added complication and that Scottish Water are minded to hold off starting work on site until the event has passed. However, if they do this it will mean that Scottish Water's works in the area will be delayed by a number of weeks which might then run into the summer months if they are due to start later.

Darren Pointer asked Mike Gray from Bear (Scotland) Ltd if they could look at a possible plan of action to claw back time. Mike Gray advised that he would liaise with David Devine of Bear (Scotland) Ltd to discuss and contact Darren when this had been discussed. It was hoped that a workable agreement for all parties could be made.

## **10.0 City Fibre Project**

Alistair Macleod advised that Jim Moran previously of the 'City Fibre Project' has now moved to another project with the City Fibre Contractor JCU. Alistair Macleod does not know at present who has taken over Jim's role, but when he is made aware will extend an invitation to invite them to attend the local RAUC Meetings. Alison Macleod advised she will make enquiries to find out who has taken over Jim's role and will feedback when she finds out.

## **11.0 Scottish Road Works Register (SRWR)**

*No issues raised.*

## **12.0 Highlighting road closures on works programmes**

Alison Macleod requested that in the future if anyone is sending any works programmes before a RAUC Meeting please could they highlight on the works programmes any road closures. Alison Macleod suggested, for example highlighting them in red or yellow or whatever way the person sending the works so chooses and that it would greatly help and highlight such closures and maybe highlight any issues with such closures before they were due to start.

### **13.0 Public Transport Issues**

Donald Henderson advised that there were 5 bus shelter installs to report and that he would forward on a list of these shelters to be added onto the register for Alison Macleod.

### **14.0 Health and Safety Issues**

No issues raised, however Alison Macleod wanted to remind Utilities present that if there were any issues they wanted to highlight or raise please do so as these could be put forward and raised at the area RAUC Meetings.

### **15.0 Future Meetings Calendar – Post June 2022**

Alison Macleod reiterated that the local RAUC meetings were now due to take place in the months of: March, June, September and December as discussed in the previous local RAUC Meeting held in October 2021 and that RAUC were ideally looking for such meetings to be held in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of those months when the RAUC Meeting was to take place.

### **16.0 Future Meetings Agenda Template**

Alison Macleod discussed the local and area RAUC Meetings and reminded meeting participants of the changes to be implemented to them from 2022.

Also, Alison Macleod suggested dates for this local RAUC Meetings to be held for the next 2 years and these dates in 2022 are: 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> December. The 2023 dates are: 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> December. Alison Macleod had been informed by RAUC that they were looking to trial this new format for the next 2 years and then it would possibly be reviewed.

A vote was held by all meeting participants on whether this local RAUC meeting should continue online or revert to being face to face or be a mixture of both? It was unanimously voted that this local RAUC meeting should continue online with a minimum of 1 meeting being held face to face (Covid Regulations Providing). The local RAUC meeting in September was agreed by meeting participants to be the best month in which to meet face to face as the weather was likely to be clement for those having to travel further afield to attend the meeting.

Alison Macleod also added that by having the majority of meetings online that those meeting participants who have to travel from further afield such as Caithness and Sutherland would not have to spend a whole day travelling and that the environmental impact would also be less if meeting participants did not have to travel to this local RAUC meeting so often.

Alison Macleod shared her screen with the meeting participants to show the template produced for the local and area RAUC Meetings and advised that Moray would be invited to participate in the next local RAUC meeting, but as discussed in the previous meeting in October 2021 Moray Council were resistant to this and that they thought Aberdeenshire Council might be a better fit.

Alison Macleod also advised that the main driving force behind the RAUC Meeting Template/Timetable changing was some Utilities felt there were a lot of RAUC Meetings taking place for those Utilities that didn't have many reps in Scotland and hoped that the new timetable would relieve the pressure of so many meetings. Alison Macleod reiterated that RAUC were looking to trial this for the next 2 years and then hopefully review.

**17.0 AOCB**

**18.0 Next Meeting**

Will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.