

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	5
Report No	LA/15/25

Committee: Lochaber

Date: 12 May 2025

Report Title: Area Roads Capital Programme 2024/25 Update

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the Area Roads Capital Programme 2024/25.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. **Note** the final budget allocation for Lochaber area for 2024/25;
- ii. **Note** the works completed on the approved list to date; and
- iii. **Note** the additional works identified and prioritised throughout the year

3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** - All work will be managed within budget allocations with the Council delivering its legal responsibilities.

3.2 **Legal** - The combined programme for Structural Resurfacing and Structural Integrity Improvements enables the Council to meet its duty under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 within the Local Committee Area.

3.3 **Risk** - The level of investment across Highland falls short of the budget requirements to maintain a steady state condition of the road network. Deterioration of the overall network will occur with a corresponding risk to the travelling public. An increase in damage claims can also be expected, as the road defects develop.

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** - No implications arising from this report.

3.5 **Gaelic** - This report has no impact on Gaelic considerations.

4 Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 This is an update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5 Background

- 5.1 On 23 January 2024 at the Lochaber Committee, Members approved the prioritised Area Roads Capital Programme
(https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4915/lochaber_committee)

At the time of approving the Highland Council had not set its budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

6 Budget

- 6.1 The Highland Council Budget was set on 14 March 2024, where Members agreed the Roads Capital Budget Allocation for 2024/25 as part of a 3-year investment into Roads. Item 6.10 of Place Based Approaches to Strategic Capital Planning and Asset Management (Report HC/05/24) sets out the total investment into Road Capital over the 3 years.
- 6.2 For 2024/25 a total investment of £20.70m was agreed.
- 6.3 The £20.70m is to be distributed with a strategic allocation and a base capital allocation.
- 6.4 The local allocation for Lochaber was set at:-

Budget	Overlay/Inlay	Surface Dressing	Total
Base capital budget allocated	£622,391	£447,170	£1,069,561
Strategic capital budget allocated	£734,900		£734,900
Structures			£100,000
A total allocated for Lochaber			£1,904,461

- 6.5 The FY2024/25 Lochaber Area Capital Works can be found within **Appendix 1** of this report.

7 Road Structural Maintenance Programme

- 7.1 The FY2024/25 prioritised list for Lochaber was approved on 23 January 2024 is detailed within Area Roads Capital Programme
(https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4915/lochaber_committee)

- 7.2 The approved list was reviewed following winter and once the effects of the weather on the road network could be assessed.
- 7.3 Factors influencing the changes include:-
- additions as road conditions deteriorated, roads not previously identified were added;
 - safety defect inspections; and
 - approved capital schemes that remain to be completed, and prioritised ranking of the road network.
- 7.4 All roads are inspected either monthly, quarterly or annually for safety hazards depending on their priority. Roads are also inspected while preparing the works programmes. Severity of winter weather can have a significant impact on roads, accelerating road defects. Road inspections, specific concerns raised through Members and Community Councils, public complaints are considered for inclusion in the works programmes.
- 7.5 The updated prioritised list is detailed within **Appendix 1**. Completed schemes have been identified.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 23 April 2025

Author: Kristen MacLeod, Roads Operations Manager, Lochaber

Background Papers: Lochaber Area Roads Capital Programme (Report LA/3/24)
Place Based Approaches to Strategic Capital Planning and
Asset Management (Report HC/05/24)

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Lochaber Area Capital Works FY2024/25
(April 2025 Update)

Appendix 1 – Lochaber Area Capital Works FY2024/25 (April 2025 Update)

Road No	Scheme	Works	Budget	Committee Approval	Status
B8007	Salen to Camus Inas	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
U1098	Eigg Road Improvements	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
A861	Sallachan Quarry Section	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
A861	Strontian Village	Inlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
A884	White Glen	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
U111	Cuil Bay	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
U1720	Ballachulish Village Hall	Inlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
U1578	Foyers Road Jct	Inlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
B8643	Kinlochleven	Inlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
U1317/U1309	Aridundle/ Bellgrove	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
U1158	Kiern Road	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	23/01/2024	Completed
C1150	Morar	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	Approval sought	Completed
A861	Dalnabrec	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	Approval sought	Completed
C1147	Earl of Inverness Road	Inlay	Area Capital Allocation	Approval sought	Completed
B8006	Farmfoods Jct	Inlay	Area Capital Allocation	Approval sought	Completed