

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	7
Report No	BIER-15-25

Committee: Black Isle and Easter Ross

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 Black Isle and Easter Ross 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 22 January 2024 at the Black Isle and Easter Ross Committee, Members approved the prioritised Area Roads Capital Programme (Report BIER-04-24) for Black Isle and Easter Ross Area.

At the time of approving the report 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 Ross and Cromarty was set at:-
- Base capital allocation = £1,847,928.
 - Strategic allocation = £1,349,000.
 - Structures = £100,000.
 - A total for Ross and Cromarty of £3,296,928
- 6.5 The Ross and Cromarty Committee has been replaced by Dingwall and Seaforth; Black Isle and Easter Ross; and Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Area Committees. However the capital budget was not disaggregated to the individual committees. Consequently the programmes developed reflect the road mileage in each of the current committee areas.
- 6.6 Taking into account overheads that cannot be disaggregated for Black Isle and Easter Ross, the local area allocation amounted to £215,402.

7 Road Structural Maintenance Programme

- 7.1 The FY2024/25 prioritised list for Black Isle and Seaforth that was approved on 22 January 2024 is detailed within Area Roads Capital Programme (Report BIER-04-24).
- 7.2 The approved list was reviewed following winter and once the effects of the weather on the road network could be assessed. Roads staff regularly attend the Cromarty Firth; Tain and Easter Ross; and Black Isle Ward Business Meetings where the list of priorities was reviewed, pre-prioritised and agreed.
- 7.3 Factors influencing the changes included:-
- additions as road conditions changed and roads not previously identified were added; and
 - 3rd parties carrying out their works in the same locations
- 7.4 The updated prioritised list is detailed within **Appendix 1**. Completed schemes have been identified.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 19 March 2025

Author: Iain Moncrieff, Roads Operations Manager
(Ross and Cromarty)

Background Papers: Area Roads Capital Programme (Report BIER-04-24)
Place Based Approaches to Strategic Capital Planning and
Asset Management (Report HC/05/24)

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Black Isle and Easter Ross Area Capital Works
FY2024/25 (April 2025 Update)

Appendix 1 – Black Isle and Easter Ross Area Capital Works FY2024/25 (April 2025 Update)

Ward	Scheme	Road No	Works	Budget	Committee Approval	Status
6	U1991	Glenglass Rd bottom section	Surface Dress	Area Capital Allocation	22-Jan-24	Patched but not surface dressed
6 & 7	C1012	Scotsburn Rd	Surface Dress	Area Capital Allocation	22-Jan-24	Patched but not surface dressed
7	C1004	Fendom Rd Tain to Fendom Jct	Surface Dress	Area Capital Allocation	22-Jan-24	Patched but not surface dressed
7	C1012	Scotsburn Rd jct with Manse/Queen St	Inlay	Area Capital Allocation	22-Jan-24	Completed
9	U2524	Carse of Raddery Road	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	22-Jan-24	Completed
9	U2585	Tore - Belmaduthy Rd	Patch	Area Capital Allocation	22-Jan-24	Completed
9	U2540	Udale Rd	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	22-Jan-24	Completed
9	U2596 & U2599	Drumsmittal	Surface Dress	Area Capital Allocation	22-Jan-24	Patched but not surface dressed
9	U2519	Newmills - Resolis	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	22-Jan-24	Deferred
6	U1966	Firhill (Baptist Ch Rd)	Inlay	Area Capital Allocation	Approval Sought	Completed
7	U1456	CastleCraig	Overlay	Area Capital Allocation	Approval Sought	Completed
9	U4652	Feddon Hill Cul de sac	Inlay	Area Capital Allocation	Approval Sought	Completed