

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	4
Report No	WRSL/02/26

Committee: Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh

Date: 19 January 2026

Report Title: Area Roads Capital Programme 2026/27

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report details the proposed 2026/27 Area Roads Capital rolling programme for surface treatment schemes.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
- i. **Approve** the rolling programme of Capital schemes as listed in **Appendix 2**, which will be a multi-year programme;
 - ii. **Note** that the Area budget will be available after the February 2026 Economy and Infrastructure (E&I) Committee; and
 - iii. **Note** that the rolling programme may require to be updated once results from the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey have been received and considered.

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)** - All works are subject to a full risk assessment and method statement before commencement. A dynamic risk assessment is carried out on site immediately prior to starting, to address any unforeseen conditions on the day. Additional safety measures are implemented where necessary to mitigate high-risk scenarios. Before work begins, all operatives participate in a Toolbox Talk to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the procedures required to deliver the works safely and to the required standard.
- 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 An Integrated Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken on 5 January 2026. The conclusions have been subject to the relevant Manager Review and Approval.
- 4.3 The Screening process has concluded that there are no impacts identified. Members are asked to consider the summary in **Appendix 1** to support the decision-making process.

5 Background

- 5.1 This report outlines the proposed rolling programme of surface treatment works for the Area roads capital allocation for 2026/27 onwards.
- 5.2 Delivery of works will be undertaken by both internal teams and external contractors, with a preference for internal delivery to optimise budget use. Where necessary, additional engineering support will be provided by the Project Design Unit in collaboration with the Roads Operations Manager.
- 5.3 Individual schemes may include complementary works beyond surface treatments, such as drainage improvements, signage and road markings. Members are reminded that Area Roads Capital budgets cover all asset types, not just carriageways.

- 5.4 Timely approval of the programme is essential to allow for effective planning and delivery. Delays can impact scheduling due to resource availability, co-ordination with utilities and weather conditions. While this report outlines the intended rolling programme, adjustments may be required, and updates will be shared with Members at Ward Business Meetings to maintain flexibility.

6 Budget Allocation

- 6.1 At the time of preparing this report, Area capital budget allocations have not yet been confirmed; these will be presented to the E&I Committee on 12 February 2026. Consequently, the scheme list in **Appendix 2** is proposed as a rolling programme, with delivery subject to available funding. The Council has also not yet received the latest Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) results, which may necessitate revisions to the programme. This approach supports the Road Services improvement priority of maintaining an annual rolling programme for capital investment, aligned with the Council's 'Our Future Highland' strategic commitment to improving road condition and maintenance.

7 Road Structural Maintenance Programme

- 7.1 Carriageway treatment schemes are prioritised using multiple data sources and factors. The rolling programme includes both previously approved but incomplete schemes and newly identified projects. The road network hierarchy is also used as a prioritisation measure.
- 7.2 In summary, the following information is utilised for scheme identification:-
- Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) data;
 - Safety inspections;
 - Service inspections;
 - Feedback from Ward Members, Community Councils and the public; and
 - Other relevant data as available
- 7.3 The Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey records data which is processed to determine rutting, profile, cracking and surface texture. These factors are used in the preparation and prioritisation of carriageway schemes for surface dressing and resurfacing programmes.

7.4 Adopted roads are inspected either monthly, quarterly or annually for safety defects, depending on their priority. Roads are also inspected in the course of preparing the works programmes. These inspections, combined with feedback, are considered for inclusion in the works programmes.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 13 January 2026

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

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment Summary
Appendix 2 – Surface Treatments Rolling Capital Programme

Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Summary

Proposal name: Area Roads Capital Programme

High level summary of the proposal: Area roads capital programme 2026/27.
Proposals relate to existing roads and maintenance.

Equalities, poverty and human rights; No impact

Children's rights and wellbeing; No impact

Data protection Full IIA required; No impact

Island and mainland rural communities; No impact

Climate change; No impact, work will be undertaken to standards, guidelines and best practice using trained operatives and serviced and maintained plant to minimise the environmental impact of the programme.

Appendix 2: Proposed Area Capital Programme 2026/27

Wester Ross Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Prioritised Capital Programme 2026/2027

25/26 Priority	Activity	Locality	Route	Road Name	General Description	Average width (m)	Scheme length (m)	Total Area (sq m)	Cost per sq m	Estimated Scheme Cost	Status
1	Overlay	Auchtertyre - Stromeferry	A890	Auchtertyre - Strathcarron - Achnasheen Road	Various patches from Auchtertyre junction to Ardnarf	6	5500	33000	35	1,155,000	Not started
2	C1091	Applecross - Shieldaig	C1091	Auchtertyre - Strathcarron - Achnasheen Road	Various patches from Auchtertyre junction to Ardnarf	3.5	500	1750	35	61,250	Not started
3	Overlay	Mains of Fairburn	U3005	Mains Of Fairburn, Marybank	Road badly breaking up	3.5	1380	4830	35	169,050	Not started
4	Overlay	Achnasoul	U3163	Achnasoul Road, Marybank	Road badly breaking up	3.5	465	1627.5	35	56,963	Not started
5	Overlay	West of Loch Tollaidh	A832	Cromarty - Fortrose - Tore - Muir Of Ord - Moy Bridge Gorstan - Achnasheen - Gairloch - Dundonnell - Braemore Junction Road	Heavily patched and uneven	6	150	900	35	31,500	Not started
6	Surface Dressing	Loch Clair	A896	Strathcarron – Lochcarron – Sheildaig – Torridon - Kinlochewe Road	Surface dress req.	3.5	4600	16100	7	112,700	Not started
7	Overlay	Poolewe	A832	Cromarty - Fortrose - Tore - Muir Of Ord - Moy Bridge Gorstan - Achnasheen - Gairloch - Dundonnell - Braemore Junction Road	From bridge to village hall including f/w	6	250	1500	50	75,000	Not started

8	Inlay	Red Point Jct - Gairloch E	A832	Cromarty - Fortrose - Tore - Muir Of Ord - Moy Bridge Gorstan - Achnasheen - Gairloch - Dundonnel - Braemore Junction Road	Several sections to be patched	5.7	68	387.6	50	19,380	Not started
9	Inlay	Gairloch Shop	A832	Cromarty - Fortrose - Tore - Muir Of Ord - Moy Bridge Gorstan - Achnasheen - Gairloch - Dundonnel - Braemore Junction Road	Inlay adjacent to shop	6	50	300	50	15,000	Not started
10	Inlay	Erbusaig	C1232	Balmacara – Erbusaig – Kyle Of Lochalsh Road (Old Trunk Road)	Deferred from 25/26 for further investigation	6	110	660	35	23,100	Not started
11	Inlay	Kinellan Farm Rd	U3070	Kinellan Farm, Strathpeffer	Overlay and retaining wall	6	250	1876	10	38,760	Not started
12	Patching	Bealach Rd	C1087	Tornapress – Applecross – Toscaig Road		3.5	350	1,225	35	42,875	Not started
13	Surface Dressing	Achnasheen - Strathcarron	A890	Achnasheen - Strathcarron	Surface dressing previous blacktop	6	14368	86,208	7	603,456	Not started