

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

14 APRIL 2015

SCOTTISH ROAD MAINTENANCE CONDITION SURVEY RESULTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARK FRAMEWORK

1. BACKGROUND

A national survey of the condition of roads in Scotland is carried out annually through SCOTS (the Society of Chief Officers for Transportation in Scotland) – the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS). A sample of roads is surveyed each year so the results are averaged over a two year period to reflect this. Results are published annually for all roads authorities in Scotland.

Report No 1007/04 presented to the Infrastructure Services Committee on 2 September 2004 detailed the principles behind the SRMCS and it was noted that the road network is categorised in to “green”, “amber” or “red” where;

“Green”: Road is in acceptable condition.

“Amber”: Road condition indicates that further investigation is needed to establish if remedial treatment is required.

“Red”: Road has deteriorated to the point at which repairs to prolong future life should be considered.

The surveys were started over a decade ago although the first year was for a limited number of A class roads only. The survey has developed over the intervening years with the A, B, C and part of the unclassified roads surveyed. Adjustments have been made to compensate for the variations in the statistical returns from the sample survey. The actual amount of unclassified roads surveyed is around 10% across Scotland. As a result previous biennial results were more comparable and a change was implemented this year to move to a rolling four-year average thereby removing some of the annual variations in order to dampen unrepresentative variations arising from partial coverage of the unclassified network year on year and therefore the 2011/12 results onwards are not wholly compatible with the previous years’ figures (shown in italics). Nevertheless the comparisons in year with the Scottish average/other authorities remain valid and relevant.

In addition the Local Government Benchmark Framework produce roads maintenance costs per kilometre of road. There are some issues over the production of these figures and the expenditure that they include and exclude. However as a national figure they are reported to Members through this report.

2. DETAILS

SRMCS

The physical condition of a sample of the local, Angus road network has again been surveyed for 2013/14, as part of the Scottish Roads Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS). The survey reports the road condition by a “traffic light” system, and is used to produce a Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI), which is the total of the ‘red’ and ‘amber’ indicators.

The results are:

	<b>Two year combined RCI (Red and Amber) (Road Condition Index) for Angus</b>	<b>Scottish Average RCI</b>	<b>Angus Council position relative to other Scottish Local Authorities</b>
2008-09	26.6	34.2	8
2009-10	27.1	36.0	4
2010-11	29.4	37.9	5
2011-12	29.0	36.4	5
2012-13	27.9	36.2	6
2013-14	30.1	36.7	8
2014-15	30.1	36.3	7

Angus Council's performance remains in the 1st quartile of authorities across Scotland. Overall the network condition has continued to deteriorate over the 7 years of results. The Scottish average has been fairly consistent for the last six years. From the detail breakdown of classification of Angus roads below, the condition of the C Class roads has improved in the last set of results and there has been a marginal improvement in the B Class roads but longer term trends continue to be of a worsening network particularly when the A class roads are considered..

	A Class	B Class	C Class
2010-11	17.3	29.8	27.9
2011-12	17.9 ↑	31.0 ↑	29.8 ↑
2012-13	17.9 →	31.2 ↑	28.0 ↓
2013-14	18.5 ↑	35.3 ↑	31.6 ↑
2014-15	20.9 ↑	35.0 ↓	24.8 ↓

The following percentages indicate the proportion of the road network which has been resurfaced or which received a superficial surface treatment (surface dressing or thin coat surfacing) over recent years.

	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
<b>Resurfaced</b>	1.56%	1.67%	1.46%	1.23%	1.8%	1.14%	1.58%	2.10%	1.12%	1.01%	Not yet available
<b>Surface Treatment</b>	2.27%	2.04%	1.74%	2.56%	2.77%	2.11%	1.85%	1.87%	1.69%	1.91%	3.16%

Ideally and in theory roads should be resurfaced at least every 40 years for A class roads, equating to 2.5% of the road network being resurfaced every year. Surface dressing has a working life of approximately ten years and should on a similar basis therefore be carried out on 10% of the network every year.

#### Cost of Maintenance

The cost of maintenance per kilometre of roads is not a Statutory Performance Indicator but is produced by the Improvement Service and published in the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework report produced by the Improvement Service.

The data is as follows:

Local Authority	£/km 2011-12	Ranking	£/km 2012-13	Ranking	£/km 2013-14	Ranking
Aberdeen City	9691.1	22	14917.9	28	14310.0	29
Aberdeenshire	4144.1	8	4835.8	11	3999.7	9
Angus	5257.6	10	4573.3	10	3046.7	6
Argyll & Bute	4089.3	7	3447.8	6	5176.1	11
Clackmannanshire	5598.1	11	12453.9	26	8013.5	18
Dumfries & Galloway	2405.1	2	2959.7	3	2392.1	1
Dundee City	8316.6	17	9767.1	20	7644.2	17
East Ayrshire	9005.2	21	6791.7	14	5998.3	14
East Dunbartonshire	10027.8	24	8712.6	18	6606.6	16
East Lothian	13163.3	30	11911.3	24	11632.3	26
East Renfrewshire	18018.2	32	18646.4	31	16418.0	30
Edinburgh City	17429.7	31	17447.6	29	14158.2	28
Eilean Siar	2849.9	4	2709.4	2	2833.5	3
Falkirk	6315.1	13	7966.6	16	12530.9	27
Fife	10276.8	26	10056.9	22	9449.9	24
Glasgow City	8983.9	20	12065.5	25	8365.8	19
Highland	3160.7	5	3414.1	5	2839.4	4
Inverclyde	11757.3	28	17618.8	30	25959.7	32
Midlothian	6488.2	14	14854.4	27	11281.7	25
Moray	4209.2	9	4153.3	9	5701.4	12
North Ayrshire	6621.9	15	7377.0	15	9165.5	23
North Lanarkshire	9800.4	23	10278.9	23	8972.4	22
Orkney Islands	2590.9	3	2619.6	1	2635.4	2
Perth & Kinross	3171.8	6	3367.3	4	2842.1	5
Renfrewshire	5830.6	12	6690.7	13	6548.9	15
Scottish Borders	2350.8	1	3586.9	7	3545.6	7
Shetland Islands	8860.6	19	3831.9	8	3634.6	8
South Ayrshire	10148.6	25	6069.3	12	4858.5	10
South Lanarkshire	10691.5	27	10023.1	21	8372.5	20
Stirling	8423.5	18	8602.5	17	5941.1	13
West Dunbartonshire	12992.4	29	25598.4	32	21090.7	31
West Lothian	8212.4	16	9260.0	19	8580.2	21
Scotland	6211.1		6654.8		6058.4	

In terms of the cost of road maintenance per kilometre, the Scottish average was £6,058 in 2013/14, with councils ranging from £2392 to £25,960. There is a significant difference in costs between urban, rural and semi-rural councils. The average in 2013/14 for urban councils was £8972 per kilometre, for rural councils it was £2842 and for semi-rural area councils it was £8476. The higher traffic volumes experienced in urban and semi-rural areas, where some large towns are located, is reported as being a key factor behind the variations in spending.

For the four years for which we have data the Scottish average cost per kilometre fell in real terms by 21.2%. The rate of reduction has altered significantly over the four years with a real terms reduction of 16.3% in 2010/11 to 2011/12, followed by a growth in real terms of 5.4% in 2011/12 to 2012/13, and finally a further reduction of 10.6% in 2012/13 to 2013/14. The majority of the change appears to be due to lower winter maintenance expenditure during this period.

The figures themselves are based on the revenue expenditure for roads which includes verge, drainage, pothole repairs and importantly winter maintenance. The effect of weather, particularly winter weather, but also wind and flooding, has an impact on these figures both year on year for Angus but also geographically for other local authorities.

It is worth noting that this cost measure does not include capital spend and therefore does not accurately capture the extent of variations in spend across councils. Significantly the indicators do not include the Renewal and Repairs or capital budgets.

## **CONCLUSION**

Angus Council remains in the top quartile of performance for the SRMCS results and is in the top quartile of comparisons of cost/km of roads maintenance (with top being lowest spend).

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