

ANGUS COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 10 OCTOBER 2017
RAISING STANDARDS AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF ROAD WORKS IN
SCOTLAND - CONSULTATION
REPORT BY HEAD OF TECHNICAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report provides information on a consultation by the Scottish Government in relation to proposed improvements to the regulation of road works in Scotland, and proposes a response for the Committee's approval.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) note the content of the consultation; and
- (ii) agree to the attached comments in **Appendix 2** as the council's response to the consultation.

2 ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are safe, secure and vibrant.
- Our carbon footprint is reduced.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Scotland's roads are vital for economic prosperity and for the quality of life of its people. The Scottish road network is one of its most valuable assets in monetary terms and it is vital that it is maintained in an appropriate condition. Under the New Roads and Street Works Act and Transport Scotland Act, Local Authorities as local roads authorities are required to coordinate streetworks activities both by themselves and others including utilities (gas; water; electricity; etc). To aid there is an all Scotland single register of road works (the Scottish Road Works Register – SRWR) and the SRWR is overseen by the Scottish Road Works Commissioner (SRWC) with the power to impose fines where activities are not appropriately registered.

3.2 In 2015, the then Minister for Transport and the Islands, appointed the current SRWC, and also took the opportunity to commission an independent review of the SRWC's Office and functions. While Scotland already leads the UK in the planning and coordination of road works, having the only SRWC for the sector, and a single register of road works Scottish Ministers felt that there was still scope for

improvement to build on these existing strengths in terms of how road works, including utility road works, are managed in Scotland.

- 3.3 A resultant report written by independent consultant, the “Barton Report”, made a number of recommendations to improve the regulation of road works in Scotland. This includes improvements in the availability of information, measures to support improvements in the quality of road work reinstatements, and improving enforcement and strengthening the existing powers available to the SRWC and to roads authorities.
- 3.4. The consultation, which is set out in **Appendix 1**, seeks views on proposals for improvements to the regulation of road works in Scotland which includes taking forward the accepted recommendations of the Barton Report

4 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 **Appendix 2** contains a recommended response to the questions asked in the consultation document for Committee’s approval.

5 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The Councils comments on the Consultation document shall be submitted to the Scottish Government by the due date of 12 October 2017.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report although there may be costs if some of the changes suggested are made mandatory such as transfer of plant records to Vault (record keeping system).
- 6.2 There are potentially significant financial benefits if some of the changes suggested are made mandatory such as a 6 year guarantee on reinstatements.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Strategic Director - Place, Head of Corporate Finance and Head of Legal and Democratic Services were consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.

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List of Appendices Appendix 1 - Raising Standards and Improving the Quality of Road Works in Scotland - A Consultation
Appendix 2 - Consultation response.