

ANGUS COUNCIL

GRANT SUB-COMMITTEE OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 17 JUNE 2025

STRATEGIC TIMBER TRANSPORT SCHEME 2025-26 – GLEN PROSEN (C27 & C28)

REPORT BY GRAEME DAILLY, DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. ABSTRACT

This report seeks authorisation to accept and utilise the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme grant fund for carriageway improvements to aid the extraction of timber from Glen Prosen.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This Report contributes to the achievement of our priorities in our Council Plan for 2023 – 2028.

- Caring for our Place
 - Maintain our roads, pavements, lighting, and other infrastructure efficiently and focus our resources on our priority routes and infrastructure

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee -

- (i) notes the successful outcome of the Council's bid for of £150,000 funding towards the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme – Glen Prosen – (C27 and C28);
- (ii) agrees to accept this grant and its proposed use in Phase 3 of Strategic Timber Transport Scheme 2025-26 – Glen Prosen (C27 & C28); and
- (iii) delegates authority to the Director of Infrastructure & Environment or his nominated representatives to continue to work collaboratively with Forestry Land Scotland and Airlie Estates to utilise the grant funding in order to improve the identified areas along the C27 and C28 for locals and timber haulers.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Strategic Timber Transport Scheme (STTS) was set up by Scottish Forestry to help finance projects that reduce the impact of timber transport and provide community benefits. This acknowledges that most of Scotland's timber is transported on old, rural roads that were never designed for modern timber lorries, and the negative impacts on road users, tourists and communities along these routes.
- 4.2 This successful bid relates to phase 3 of Angus Council's strategic timber transport route improvements within the Angus Glens. Phase 1 was carried out in 2019-20 on the B955 (Glen Clova) and U405 (Glen Doll). This saw the creation of passing places together with targeted patching and carriageway edge strengthening. Phase 1 was completed at a cost of £344,893 of which £231,000 came from STTS funding.
- 4.3 Phase 2 followed in 2021-22 which involved carriageway and drainage improvements on the U390 Backwater (Glen Isla). This phase was completed at a cost of £225,073, with STTS and private third-party funding totalling £121,072.
- 4.4 Angus Council successfully bid for Preparatory Project Grant funding in 2024-25. A consultant was contracted to carry out detailed surveys of the C27 and C28 to identify opportunities for road improvements (primarily passing place construction, strengthening, widening, realignment and drainage) and to produce a Schedule of Works. This was completed successfully at a cost of £4,750 of which £3,800 came from STTS funding. The PPG formed the basis of this 2025-26 Glen Prosen bid.

- 4.5 This bid requested £150,000 of funding from the STTS. There is a private sector investment element totalling £30,000 with Angus Council contributing £130,000 to the project from Roads & Transportation capital budget. Additionally, Airlie Estates have offered in-kind land to allow road widening to take place where necessary.
- 4.6 The grant requires quarterly claims submitted to STTS as a way of tracking the progress of the project. The works must be completed and final claim submitted by 23 February 2026.

5. PROPOSAL

- 5.1 Phase 3 will continue the wider road improvement programme on strategic timber transport routes within the Angus Glens. This project will significantly help reduce congestion and other impacts of timber transport along this popular tourist route while enhancing road safety for all road users.
- 5.2 The project will enable the construction of HGV-sized passing places, structural strengthening, localised widening, and drainage improvements at key locations along a 7.5-mile section of the C27 and C28 in Glen Prosen.
- 5.3 The Sub-Committee is asked to agree that officers continue to work collaboratively with Scottish Forestry and Airlie Estates to develop the Glen Prosen – C27 and C28 timber transport road upgrades.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The overall cost of the proposed works is estimated at £300,000. As noted above, the grant income to the council following its successful bid totals £150,000, with £30,000 coming from private sector investment.
- 6.2 Angus Council will also cover the management costs of this project in order to maximise the funding value and benefit against the physical works; this cost is estimated at £10,000. This leaves the cost to the Council at £130,000, which will be contained within the existing Roads and Transportation capital budget.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Positive direct environmental impacts include:

- New drainage that will reduce the risk of flooding as well as help protect the council's assets.
- Positive impact on air quality by allowing traffic to flow easier, reducing the need to stop/reverse when passing an oncoming timber lorry.
- Widening and strengthening works will protect and improve the resilience of the transport network on roads that were not built to modern standards.

Negative direct impacts include:

- A negative impact on habitats may occur where carriageway widening or passing places are installed. This will be mitigated during the survey stage by selecting areas away from key habitats.
- There are carbon emissions associated with roads maintenance and construction activities, through the use of materials and works on site.
- There are carbon emissions associated with timber transport. However, this should be considered in terms of the wider work of the timber industry in Scotland to ensure continued sustainable timber production from our forests.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

- 8.1 A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

9. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 There are no direct implications in terms of this report as there are either neutral or positive impacts.

10. CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The Director of Finance and the Acting Director of Legal, Governance and Change have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are: Not applicable.

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