

Scottish Roads and Lighting advisory group

Minutes 25 August 2017

Ruthvenfield Depot, Perth

1. Introduction and welcome

Cllr Frank Anderson of West Lothian Council welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending his first meeting as the new Chair of the advisory group.

2. Attendance and apologies

Please see attached.

3. Minutes from previous meeting held on 28 April 2017

The group agreed the previous minutes were a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

5. Performance Networks Most Improved Performer 2015 and 2016 – Inverclyde

Brenda McDonald from Inverclyde Council provided the group with an overview of the work undertaken in Inverclyde that led to them achieving the Most Improved Performer in 2015 and 2016 at the APSE Performance Networks Awards. Brenda started by providing geographical information on Inverclyde Council as well as some statistics on their carriageway length (369km), footway length (448km), gullies (approx. 10,500), lighting columns (11,750), lanterns (12,300), bridges (79 road, 8 foot, 71 culverts and 4 underpasses), grit bins (371), traffic controlled junctions (8), pedestrian crossings (20) and trees (approx. 700). 48% of the carriageway network receives precautionary treatment in winter.

Much of the improvement works were driven by negative press showing that Inverclyde had 'the second worst roads in Scotland', and articles highlighting Council payouts for compensation (e.g. for pothole damage to vehicles). In response to this, a long term investment plan was put together by consultants at EXP. 3 options for a Roads Asset Investment Strategy were submitted to committee, and the 10 year option was approved for carriageway, footways, lighting and structures. £29 million was allocated over 5 years with an initial investment of £17 million over the first 3 years. 61% was allocated to carriageways, 11.5% to footways and 15% to lighting.

The Council managed to deliver the investment by developing a 3 year rolling programme to target priority areas, by developing programmes to include surface preservation as well as resurfacing, by developing in-house systems to deliver and monitor the investment, by allocating in-house operation resources more efficiently, by improving coordination and by improving procurement of materials, plant and services (by putting in place mini comps on Excel, plant hire frameworks, minor civil works frameworks, open tenders, quick quotes).

Brenda showed the group further detail on the projected condition profile over 10 years of investment, the road asset investment strategy, their Road Condition Analysis (RCI) and their capital works programme, information from their APSE Performance Networks returns, their number of claims per year since 2009, maps of Inverclyde displaying how much work

has been carried out on carriageways and footways and statistics on capital investment in structures and lighting since 2014/15.

Through capital investment, Inverclyde have been able to: decrease the number of Cat 1 and Cat 2 potholes, increase the percentage of potholes repaired within the timescales of the Inspection Guidance Manual, reduce the number of claims, have little to no negative press comments, improve drainage schemes (where required) and provide better value through improved procurement schemes.

An overview of how the investment has been monitored and checked for performance was also provided. This includes a 6-weekly meeting with the Corporate Director, reports go to the committee every 2 months, the Council's internal performance management system 'Inverclyde Performs' records information relating to defect management, there are regular financial monitoring meetings and Corporate Development Improvement Plans are regularly reviewed. Brenda concluded her presentation by outlining the plans for 2018-2023, which will see a £15m Total Roads Capital Investment (as approved by the committee).

Several questions were asked around whether this had improved team morale, on the financial justification for the Council's approach to fixing footways, on how many claims were paid and on footway walking surveys.

6. Raising Standards and Improving the Quality of Road Works in Scotland – Transport Scotland consultation

The group had a discussion about the consultation and agreed to send their individual responses into APSE to allow APSE to put in a coordinated response.

7. Well Maintained Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice – Requirement to develop a risk based approach

The group briefly discussed the requirement to develop a risk based approach and agreed to invite Richard Hayes from Institute of Highways Engineers and Malcolm Paterson from Gallagher Bassett to a future meeting to discuss this in more detail.

8. Process benchmarking update

Colin McInnes provided an update on process benchmarking, promising to provide a presentation on the findings at the next advisory group meeting. Colin informed the group that he is available to do refresher training on data completion on request. He also asked the group to think about any further topics that they would like to focus on benchmarking.

9. SCOTS / APSE Performance Networks update

Dorothy Reid from Falkirk provided the group with a SCOTS update. The deadline for the return of data was 28th July, with 6 Councils data still outstanding at the time of the meeting. SCOTS Family Group validation meetings will be taking place between 25th August and 15th September and the final date for return of updates and amendments is 22nd September. The dispatch of the annual SCOTS/APSE report will be at the end of September, and the dispatch of SCOTS Year-on-Year report will be at the end of October.

Dorothy also suggested that SCOTS/APSE will be looking for data to be signed off by a senior person at each Council in the future.

10. Discussion of issues affecting service delivery and network queries

There was a discussion around court action training for employees with one Council having brought in lawyers to do the training, and other councils doing this on an ad-hoc basis through mentoring. It was suggested that APSE could potentially deliver this training, (although that if it did it should take into consideration the differences with the Scottish court system compared to the rest of the UK).

There was also a discussion on marches and rallies on the public highway, but this was kept brief as the topic had been covered in more depth at a recent SCOTS meeting.

11. APSE update

Garry Lee provided an update on the current work of the Association, including the latest briefings, the recent APSE Scotland publication 'Doing local politics in Scotland', the APSE/ITN 'Redefining Neighbourhoods' programme, recent advocacy work, network queries, deadlines for Performance Networks data returns, upcoming APSE Energy and APSE Training events in Scotland, the work of APSE Solutions and upcoming Scottish and National seminars.

12. AOCB

Colin McInnes asked the group about topics for the breakout sessions at the Performance Networks seminar in Blackpool, and it was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

There were also discussions about whether other councils have joint responsibilities and have they had any issues with this, and a Councillor asked the group if they had any recommendations on how Councillors could better support council officers in their work; the group provided helpful suggestions on this.

13. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10 November 2017 at Ruthvenfield Depot in Perth.

Attendees

| Name | Council | Count |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Garry Lee | APSE | 1 |
| Colin McInnes | APSE Associate | 1 |
| Angus Maclver | Aberdeen City Council | 1 |
| Stuart Young | Aberdeen City Council | 1 |
| Stan Pattinson | Angus Council | 1 |
| Iona Kerr | Argyle and Bute Council | 1 |
| George Davidson | Ayrshire Roads Alliance | 1 |
| Sean Gilchrist | City of Edinburgh Council | 1 |
| David Dickson | City of Edinburgh Council | 1 |
| Andy Edwards | City of Edinburgh Council | 1 |
| Scott Walker | Clackmannanshire Council | 1 |
| Lisa Chiles | Dundee City Council | 1 |
| Ryan Robertson | East Lothian Council | 1 |
| Dorothy Reid | Falkirk Council | 1 |

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|---------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Cllr Bill Porteous | Fife Council | 1 |
| Bill Liddle | Fife Council | 1 |
| Cllr Stephen Dornan | Glasgow City Council | 1 |
| Peter McGillivray | Glasgow City Council | 1 |
| Chris Burns | Glasgow City Council | 1 |
| John MacLennan | Highland Council | 1 |
| Brenda McDonald | Inverclyde Council | 1 |
| Stewart Walker | North Ayrshire Council | 1 |
| William McAlpine | North Lanarkshire Council | 1 |
| Grant Montgomery | Scotland Excel | 1 |
| Elena Martin | Scotland Excel | 1 |
| Cllr John Anderson | South Lanarkshire Council | 1 |
| Kenny Snedden | Stirling Council | 1 |
| Stuart Geddes | Stirling Council | 1 |
| Ewan MacNaughton | Tayside Contracts | 1 |
| Kenneth Brown | West Lothian Council | 1 |
| Cllr Frank Anderson | West Lothian Council | 1 |
| Graeme Malcolm | West Lothian Council | 1 |

Total 32

Apologies

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kevin McIntosh | Argyle and Bute Council |
| David Godfrey | Dundee City Council |
| Liam Greene | East Dunbartonshire Council |
| Eleni Gigourtaki | East Lothian Council |
| Ian King | East Lothian Council |
| Brian Orde | East Renfrewshire Council |
| Derek Crowe | Fife Council |
| Elizabeth Maciver | Highland Council |
| Donald Scott | Scottish Borders Council |