

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 1997

COSLA INITIATIVE : LACK OF RESOURCES FOR ROADS AND TRANSPORT

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT

This report outlines the initiative via COSLA (note attached) with respect to highlighting concerns about the impact of lack of resources on all aspects of roads and transport activity.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee agree:-

- (i) to note the ongoing initiative via COSLA whereby the Roads Conveners and Directors of all the Local Authorities in Scotland are co-ordinating details of the severe under-funding of roads and transport activities;
- (ii) to note the Angus situation, which is typical of many other Scottish Local Authorities, whereby substantial under-funding of structural maintenance in the short term will undoubtedly lead to much more costly surfacing/reconstruction treatments in the future;
- (iii) agree to the Convener of the Roads Committee and the Director of Roads participating fully in the COSLA campaign - the primary objective of which will be to highlight the magnitude and 'build-up' effect of under-provision for roads structural maintenance funding across all Scottish Local Authorities with a

view to securing additional monies for roads and transport funding from Central Government;

- (iv) note that a further report will be submitted to Committee in due course on the development of the National initiative.

2 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

Dr Bob McLellan
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:-

Letter dated 5 December 1996 from COSLA - ROADS AND TRANSPORT CONVENER'S AND DIRECTORS MEETING - 18 DECEMBER

COSLA paper - Issues Arising from Meeting of Roads and Transport Conveners and Directors on 28 November 1996

REPORTS/structure
21 January 1997
RWM/JSG

5 December 1996

Your Ref:

Chief Executives

Our Ref: RT/1/1

Directors and Heads of Roads and Transport

Director General, Strathclyde PT

Dear Colleague

ROADS AND TRANSPORT CONVENERS AND DIRECTORS MEETING - 18 DECEMBER

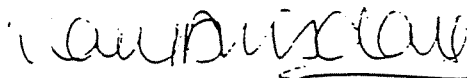
I enclose a copy of the note of meeting of Roads and Transport Conveners and Directors held on 28 November, along with a summary of the issues raised.

At that meeting it was agreed that a further meeting should take place as soon as possible to highlight concerns about the impact of lack of resources on all aspects of roads and transport activity, including impact on, for example, maintenance cycles and consequences for future expenditure; community safety issues (lighting, traffic calming, etc); economic development (weight restrictions on bridges etc); claims for compensation trends; integrated transport programmes and sustainability planning. European funding issues (TENs) funding concerns and matching funding for structural fund schemes were also raised at the meeting.

The next meeting will take place at 10.30 am on 18 December in the City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh. COSLA's roads and transport link advisers have been asked to make presentations on the issues of concern. Following the meeting there will be a press conference and photo-call of Conveners. The City of Edinburgh has kindly agreed to provide a lunch for those attending.

I would be grateful if you would complete the enclosed pro-forma indicating which officer and Councillor will attend from your council.

Yours sincerely



Mary Dinsdale
Policy Officer

WHEN CALLING PLEASE ASK FOR: Mary Dinsdale 0131 474 9264

RTFIN2.DOC 3
MD:BL

**Issues Arising from Meeting of Roads and Transport Conveners and Directors on
28 November 1996**

1. Reduction in capital and revenue allocations will impact on all aspects of Roads and Transportation activity and in particular, has implications for maintenance cycles. Need to counter possibility of roads budgets being viewed as an easier option for politicians when compared, for example, to social work or education budgets.
2. The transport network is as much a part of the social economic and sustainable fabric of life as other essential services.
3. The level of informed debate/education needs to be raised to increase the public's Councillors, MPs, MEPs etc awareness of the necessity of an adequate infrastructure which is a fundamental importance to urban and rural areas in the provision of economic benefits etc through an easily accessible format. The implications of the cuts also need to be highlighted to those whose livelihoods may be affected, eg contractors. CBI, Freight Transport Association..
4. The importance of roads budgets to community safety, (eg traffic management lighting and condition of pavements) needs to be included in the debate.
5. Forthcoming legislation will mean that further demands will be made on roads budget through the bridge strengthening regulations which again, will impact on economic development.
6. Concern regarding European funding issues - the lack of progress on Trans European Networks (TENS).
7. Need for good statistics on roads (etc) budgets