AGENDA ITEM NO 14
REPORT NO 178/11

ANGUS COUNCIL
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 1 MARCH 2011
SCOTTISH ROAD MAINTENANCE CONDITION SURVEY RESULTS
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT
This report details the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey results for the period from 2009 - 2011.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey results for the two year period 2009 – 2011.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 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 Conditions Survey. 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.

2.2 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.

2.3 The surveys were started nine years ago although the first year was for a limited number of A class roads only. The above report noted that the SRMCS aimed to survey 100% of A class roads, 50% of B and C class roads, and 25% of unclassified roads annually. Therefore different B, C and unclassified roads are surveyed each year. 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 in 2008 to move to a rolling two-year average thereby removing some of the annual variations. Further changes in the data gathering have meant that the results are not directly comparable for all preceding years’ reports, as was advised to Committee in Report 578/08 and therefore only the last three years of results are considered directly comparable.

3 DETAILS

3.1 The physical condition of a sample of the local, Angus road network has again been surveyed for 2010/11, 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).
3.2 The results are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Two year combined RCI (Road Condition Index) for Angus</th>
<th>Scottish Average RCI</th>
<th>Angus Council position relative to other Scottish Local Authorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 The new RCI (which is the sum of the amber and red percentages for the whole public road network) indicates that the road network in Angus has shown a slight decline similar to the Scottish average. The Angus RCI is red 5.0% plus amber 24.4%. It is worthy of note that the most recent survey work was carried out before the most recent severe winter weather and therefore does not reflect any deterioration in the condition of the roads network occasioned by that weather.

3.4 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.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resurfaced</td>
<td>1.44%</td>
<td>1.56%</td>
<td>1.67%</td>
<td>1.46%</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superficial Surface Treatment</td>
<td>1.98%</td>
<td>2.27%</td>
<td>2.04%</td>
<td>1.74%</td>
<td>2.56%</td>
<td>2.77%</td>
<td>2.11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5 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.

3.6 Whilst the Roads Division maximizes the funding available for surfacing/surface dressing, the funding levels remain below that required each year to surface the network in accordance with an Economic Maintenance Roads Regime which has for several years been the target funding and detailed in Report 810/08 presented to the Infrastructure Services Committee on 26 August 2008. The amount of funding available for surfacing/surface dressing is that which is available taking account of other high priority commitments which include routine and cyclic maintenance and winter maintenance.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no human rights implications arising from the proposals in this report.
EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The issues contained in this Report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

7.1 The details outlined may contribute to the following local outcomes contained within the Single Outcome Agreement for Angus.

- We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need

CONSULTATION

8.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Law and Administration and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

CONCLUSION

9.1 This report details SRMCS (Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey) results with Angus Council having a total of 29.4% its road network within the red and amber portion of the survey (the Road Condition Index) placing it 5th amongst Scottish Local Roads Authorities.

ERIC S LOWSON
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

NOTE

The following 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 any material extent in preparing this Report:-

Report No 1007/04 – Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) Year 2 Survey Results – Infrastructure Services Committee – 2 September 2004.

Report 810/08 - Roads Infrastructure Condition - Infrastructure Services Committee on 26 August 2008.

Report 578/08 - Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey Results - Infrastructure Services Committee - 3 June 2008.

Roads/JG