



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

13 JUNE 2007
21 JUNE 2007

WINTER MAINTENANCE – YEAR-END EXPENDITURE 2006/2007

Report by Director of Technical Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT To indicate current expenditure on winter maintenance.

COMPETENCE

- 1.1 Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 imposes a duty on the Roads Authority to take such steps as they consider reasonable to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of road users.
- 1.2 Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 outlines the calculations the local authority is obliged to make in setting the Council Tax for any financial year.

SUMMARY

- 2.1 The position at 31 March 2007 with winter maintenance expenditure shows a considerable underspend for the year 2006/07.
- 2.2 The expenditure at present stands at £1,030k out of the initial budget of £1,374k leaving a balance £344k. It should be noted that the accounts have not been finalised and there may be small adjustments to the final expenditure and balance.
- 2.3 The considerable underspend on winter maintenance has been partly due to the average temperature being some 2.5°C above normal over the period. In tandem with this has been a higher amount of rainfall the weather being wetter than in recent years. The average rainfall for Stornoway Airport for December 2006 was 174% of the 10 year average with 247.6mm of rain. January 2007 saw some 268.6mm of rain, another 10 year record.
- 2.4 The higher rainfall has resulted in a greater incidence of road flooding and this has increased demands on general roads maintenance budgets whilst there has been a reduction of demands on winter maintenance budgets.
- 2.5 In order to address this, it is proposed to investigate the feasibility of establishing an Adverse Weather Budget which, in addition to providing the necessary revenue funds for implementing the Comhairle's Winter Maintenance Policy, would provide revenue funding for proactive and reactive road flooding prevention and alleviation works.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle:**
 - (a) **note the contents of the Report with regard to the anticipated year-end expenditure; and**
 - (b) **note the intention of the Director of Technical Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources to investigate the feasibility of establishing an Adverse Weather Budget and to report back the findings of this to the Comhaire by October 2007.**

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Background Papers: None