

MAINTAINING SCOTLAND'S ROADS

1. SUMMARY

Audit Scotland issued a national report towards the end of November 2004 entitled, "Maintaining Scotland's Roads". The report contained the findings of a recent study of the steps taken by the Scottish Executive and councils to monitor the condition of Scotland's road network and to manage structural maintenance.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The contents of this report are noted and to be followed up by Internal Audit.

3. DETAILS

- 3.1 The Audit Scotland report detailed 9 recommendations that it wished the Scottish Executive and councils to address. No implementation dates were assigned for the recommendations contained in the report. In December 2004, in response to the Audit Scotland report, the Head of Roads & Amenity Services prepared a report for the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).
- 3.2 The Head of Service report included an Action Plan which highlighted the current position, proposed action and timescale for implementation of the national report recommendations. In addition 3 further action points were added by the Head of Service to reflect dependent issues. A copy of the Head of Services report along with a copy of the Audit Scotland, Key Findings report was provided for the Audit Committee on the 4th of March 2005.
- 3.3 The Audit Committee on the 4th of March 2005 requested that the SPC be asked whether they were satisfied that the Council had the necessary resources to address the issues highlighted in the national report. If not whether they had sought, or intended to seek additional funds, from the Scottish Executive to assist with the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the national report. Attached in Appendix 1 is an extract from the meeting of the SPC of the 13th April 2005 at which, the questions posed by the Audit Committee were raised.
- 3.4 Attached in Appendix 2, is an update report dated 5th of May 2005, submitted by the Head of Roads & Amenity Services to the SPC. Internal Audit has added an additional column to the Action Plan to highlight the current position regarding the progress with implementation of the 12 recommendations. As at the 22nd of April 2005, Internal Audit can report that there are only 4 recommendations remaining to be implemented. Of the 4 recommendations, one is on target for implementation by the end of May 2005, 2 have an implementation date of December 2005 with the remaining one being March 2006. The 3 are reported by management as ongoing.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Progress with the implementation of the reports recommendations will continue to be monitored by Internal Audit.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy: None

5.2 Financial: None

5.3 Personnel: None

5.4 Legal: None

5.5 Equal Opportunities: None

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