

Island group co-ordination meeting

Orkney, Shetland & Western Isles

Meeting held on Teams 5 September 2024 at 10.30am

Item		Action
1	Present D.A. Macleay (Western Isles) Murdo Macritchie (Western Isles) Matthew Wylie (Orkney) John Coyle (Orkney) Jim Omand (Orkney)	
2	Apologies Kenny Roy (Orkney) Barrie Scobie (Shetland) Grant Anderson (Shetland) John Johnston (Shetland) Donald Wilson (Orkney) Neil Robertson (Shetland) David Spencer (Shetland) Duncan Johnston (Shetland) John Duncan (Shetland)	
3	Appointment of chairman No change.	
4	Local Authority program works Orkney – Resurfacing works towards end of year. Streetlight works to program over the next 6 months. Surface dressing program for 2024-25 complete. Footway replacement to progress. Drainage works to commence over the Autumn and winter months. All works are notified on the radio and social media. Works noticed on the register. Shetland – Surfacing program for 2024-25 resurfacing and scarifying has been delayed due to broken tar plant starting again in 2 weeks. Surface Dressing program for 2024-25 nearing completion. General maintenance works carried out, drainage and streetlight. Major works, 4km 2 lane road on the B9082 Gutcher to Collivoe to start Spring 2025. Works noticed on the register. Western Isles – Some surfacing works for this year have been identified and will commence to completion April 2025. Small bitmac repairs made with hot box and Road Mender machine ongoing. Surface dressing program for 2024-27 complete for this year.	

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	<p>Surface Dressing in Barra next year. Agg would need to come in by Barge approx. 2000 tonne this has been sourced.</p> <p>Small civils works undertaken on a framework contract. Ditching works as required mostly done in house.</p> <p>Bridge works, Loch an Obb, Barra – new culverts to be complete end September 2024.</p> <p>Works noticed on the register.</p>	
5	<p>Utility works issues</p> <p><u>Orkney</u></p> <p>BT/Openreach - R100 – These works are still caused some issues in the quality of the works in which the L.A. are requiring to be more involved in getting remedials done. Historic mole ploughing causing problems due to insufficient depth especially in verges. When local authority is making offlets they come across the ducting at shallow depths. Also ducting causing problems in the roadside drainage. There is an issue regarding the placing and construction of the verge manholes. Concern has been forwarded to BT Openreach, there has also been a request for a detail drawing of the manhole construction which BT Openreach is not forwarding. This issue will be raised at NRAUC next meeting 17 September 2024</p> <p>Scottish Water – Ironworks defect list sent to SW. Some watermains being laid. Main contractors CWA.</p> <p>Scottish Southern Energy – No major issues. New interconnector from Caithness to Finstone be undertaken. This will entail road works and major site setup. Road surveys would need to be done before any works are undertaken. Small works also undertaken</p> <p><u>Shetland</u></p> <p>BT/Openreach - R100 – These works has caused some issues in the quality of the works, improvements to past issues have taken place. BT ironworks being an issue. Working in Yell and other Northern islands. S.I.C. inspectors now have a good relationship with squads and supervisors.</p> <p>Scottish Water – Small main replacements undertaken with no major issues. Ironworks being undertaken by LA.</p> <p>Scottish Southern Energy – SSE windfarm is operational, replacement of Distribution network still to be done. Most cabling in verges complete</p> <p><u>Western Isles</u></p> <p>BT/Openrech – R100 – this has not started yet possible 2026, some ducting have been checked for space for new cabling. Survey works looks to be undertaken at present. BAU works are still slow this year, some manhole covers are still awaiting to be undertaken some becoming an issue.</p>	

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	<p>Scottish Water –Some major works on the Westside of Lewis and Benbecula with good communication with contractors and designers before and during works. There are a few contracts in the pipeline to commence later this year, CWA the main contractor.</p> <p>Scottish Southern Energy – Some major works on overhead lines only access points affecting roads to commence in the next few months.</p> <p>Scotland Gas Networks – Only is Stornoway no issues.</p>	
6	<p>Utility Inspection issues</p> <p>Orkney –Sample inspections undertaken. Cat A inspection has issues in catching Utilities on site due to short duration of the works. Travel required to distant work sites not viable for just 1 site. A combination of other inspections or LA works inspection undertaken to justify travel. Inspections undertaken under Cat B and C ongoing. Only RTN done when a failure is noticed. The use of the Inspectors APP is being used and is found very useful.</p> <p>Shetland – Cat A inspection being on track as big works are in progress. Inspections undertaken under Cat B and C ongoing. List of SW defects dating back to March 2021 have been resent to SW. Some of the defects are now being fixed.</p> <p>Western Isles – BT Openreach works seem to be on the increase for 2024. Other Utilities are ok for Cat A inspections. Inspections undertaken under Cat B and C ongoing. The use of the Inspectors APP is being used and found to be very useful.</p> <p>Problems with Cat A was a common theme with all 3 Local Authorities.</p>	
7	<p>R Q P (Reinstatement Quality Plan)</p> <p>All three authorities have looked at the requirements of the plan Western Isles have started to put together the R.Q.P. document.</p>	
8	<p>Commissioner office/Transport Scotland</p> <p>Compliance officers are on site doing a drive by using Dash Cam and checking against the Red Book if compliant.</p> <p>The Red book is in the process of getting updated.</p> <p>VAULT is now a legal requirement to be submitted Bi-monthly. Unknown services in excavations can now be put in the register for a utility to claim.</p> <p>A webinar to be put forward by the Commissioner’s Office end October details will be e-mailed out.</p>	

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9	<p>A.O.C.B.</p> <p>Western Isles are looking at purchasing new Surface Dressing equipment, a sprayer either a Parker or Pheonix and a chipping machine, prices sort.</p> <p>A new road mender trailer and a tow along hot box also looked into.</p> <p>Orkney asked about how the Western Isle controlled the closing of causeway, the provision of on-site cameras at these sites and if WIC used gates to shut the road. WIC only use vehicles to shut the roads on request by the Police. WIC informed that they have a camera at the Braigh Causeway which can be viewed on the council internet site, there is a proposal to erect another camera at a known causeway in Uist.</p> <p>Shetland has issue with white lining this year which is programmed to be undertaken by external contractor on the 1 October 2024, concerns about the weather at that time.</p>	
10	<p>Dates of next meeting</p> <p>The 2025 dates: To confirm dates for 2025 will be confirmed by e-mail and sent to the RAUC diary.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 11.43</p>	