

## EXTRACT FROM MINUTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF 15 NOVEMBER 2016

### 7. **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – REVIEW OF BRIDGES**

- 7.1 There had been circulated copies of a Minute extract from the Scrutiny Committee meeting of 27 October 2016. This followed a report to the Committee by the Service Director – Assets & Infrastructure providing information on the Council's bridge assets. The report included a list of all bridges in the Scottish Borders, current processes for inspection and maintenance, planned investment, key issues around bridge condition and plans for improvement. The Service Director had explained at that meeting that the current Scottish Borders Council's Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP), approved in 2014, detailed what was required to manage the road network assets, including bridges. However, ensuring that all bridges were inspected regularly to assess condition and then undertaking necessary works was increasingly difficult in the current financial climate. The report presented the current planned investment in bridges and the process around identifying planned maintenance work with future planned actions around performance reporting. After discussion the Scrutiny Committee had agreed that the need to carry out inspections of the bridges asset was paramount in order to prioritise repairs using the Code of Practice for Management of Highway Structure recommendations. Once the inspections had been carried out, the results could then be incorporated into the regular performance monitoring reports to Executive Committee. The Committee also asked that officers continued to assess, on a case by case basis, any opportunities for funding to assist with future repairs to bridges.

#### **MEMBER**

Councillor Edgar left the meeting during the discussion below.

- 7.2 In a discussion of the Minute extract and recommendation, Members welcomed the work carried out by the Scrutiny Committee and agreed that it was right to highlight the importance of regular inspection of the Council's bridge assets. They also agreed that it was appropriate to receive an annual report on the condition of bridges and a prioritised list for repair. However the view of Members was that an annual report on the condition of bridges should be incorporated into the Roads Asset Management Plan (RAMP) process rather than through the quarterly performance reports to the Executive Committee. It was therefore agreed to amend the part of the recommendation regarding the reporting procedure.

#### **DECISION**

##### **AGREED:-**

- (a) **to endorse the following parts of the recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee that:-**
- (i) **the current Roads Review should take account of the need to inspect bridges within the Code of Practice for Management of Highway Structures recommendations and that, if possible, some additional resources be identified to allow this work to be carried out in line with the priorities within the Roads Asset Management Plan;**
  - (ii) **when considering future repairs to historic and iconic Borders bridges, officers continued to assess on a case by case basis any opportunities for external funding; and**
- (b) **that, once the inspection of bridges had been carried out, the condition of all bridges be categorised and incorporated into an annual report to the Executive Committee as part of the Roads Asset Management Plan process.**