
Report to Scrutiny on the re-trunking option for A7 North of Galashiels and the trunking of A72 North of Galashiels and the Peebles - Blyth Bridge routes.

Briefing Note by Service Director Commercial Services

SCRUTINY

24 MARCH 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This briefing note gives the potential costs of re-trunking of the A7 North of Galashiels and the trunking of A72 Galashiels - Peebles - Blyth Bridge routes. It also considers the impact that this would have on the funding of the remainder of the road network and the work stream for SBc Contracts and Neighbourhood Services.**
- 1.2 Scrutiny members requested that officers investigate the impact that re-trunking and trunking of the above roads would have with an understanding that by transferring these roads to Transport Scotland they would receive a higher standard of roads maintenance and that a greater number of road improvement schemes would be undertaken.
- 1.3 Consideration has been given to the financial impact of any transfer of these 86km of roads (3% of the current Borders roads network) to Transport Scotland, including the possible pro-rata reduction in funding for the balance of the Council's 2865km of roads. This would result in a roads budget reduction for the Council of around £220k pa or 6% for the remainder of the Borders roads network. For this financial reason alone, it is not therefore considered a viable proposition to lobby for any change in the current status of the roads network.
- 1.4 It is also very unlikely that Transport Scotland would agree to the trunking of the A7 North of Galashiels and the trunking of A72 Galashiels - Peebles - Blyth Bridge routes.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that Scrutiny Committee makes no recommendations to the Executive Committee on this matter.**

Approved by

Service Director Commercial Services Signature

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Background Papers: n/a**Previous Minute Reference: n/a**

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