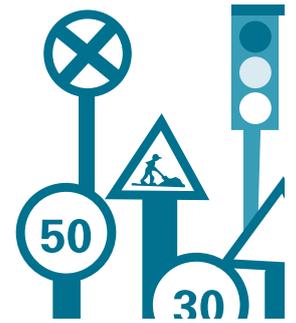


Maintaining Scotland's roads

NRMR actions



ACCOUNTS COMMISSION 

AUDITOR GENERAL 

Previous Audit Scotland recommendations and National Roads Maintenance Review actions

The NRMR contains a series of actions under six main themes. This supplement outlines, via paragraph references, our findings about progress against these actions, and recommendations contained in previous Audit Scotland reports on roads maintenance. The report does not comment on every action of the NRMR but concentrates on those with the greatest compatibility with previous audit recommendations.

Theme	Report Paragraph	Action	AS / NRMR
Effective asset management	56-59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully support SCOTS' road asset management project and have a road asset management plan in place (2011) All information is available to allow effective asset management to take place (2011) Councils need to ensure they (RAMPS) are of sufficient quality and that they are monitoring them effectively (2013) 	AS
	68	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to secure continued funding for the SCOTS' RAMP programme Transport Scotland to deploy asset management hierarchies on the trunk road network Introduce a lean culture across the road maintenance sector Explore multi-year budget allocation at central and local level 	NRMR
Prioritisation	68-69	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review their road maintenance strategies and plans to confirm that adequate prioritisation is given to those routes which are likely to contribute greatest to economic growth and improved quality of life (2011) 	AS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement asset management planning across all roads authorities and monitor effectiveness Consider amending the criteria for determining which roads are surveyed as part of the council Scottish Roads Maintenance Condition Survey 	NRMR

Cont.

Theme	Report Paragraph	Action	AS / NRMR
Benchmarking and monitoring	61-65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor the impact of changing levels of maintenance expenditure on the condition of their roads (2013) Greater efforts to benchmark road maintenance activities with other councils and the private sector in order to drive out cost inefficiencies (2011) Submit accurate and complete data to the SCOTS/APSE – to allow consistent benchmarking to take place and unit costs to be established (2013) 	AS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although councils are making more use of performance information and a common set of performance indicators has been agreed, they need to do further work to improve the quality and consistency of the data to enable meaningful benchmarking to take place (2013) Councils and the Scottish Government should monitor and report publicly on the condition of their road network and their road maintenance backlog on an annual basis (2011) A consistent way of costing total road maintenance backlog is used across all councils 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the SCOTS suite of roads Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) by all councils Transport Scotland to review the suite of KPIs to determine if it would be appropriate to adopt them Develop and apply a consistent unit cost benchmarking methodology across all roads authorities 	NRMR
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councils and Transport Scotland – should work together to consider all opportunities for achieving more with the resources currently available, by exploring new ways of working, such as new service reconfiguration, pooling and flexible use of resources (including staff and machinery) and partnerships between councils and the private sector (2011) Councils – they seek to develop a costed model for shared services (2011) 	AS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with partners on the Roads Maintenance Strategic Action Group to produce a strategy for developing the best service and structural models to deliver roads maintenance (2013) 	
Delivery models	83-100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the optimal delivery of road maintenance services Joint collaboration/working arrangements/operational collaboration between all roads authorities Integrated service arrangements within councils Investigate council shared services across smaller consortia of councils Identify opportunities for the introduction of new contracting approaches to increase flexibility and to include framework arrangements 	NRMR

Theme	Report Paragraph	Action	AS / NRMR	
Communication	<p>32</p> <p>34-35</p> <p>76-79</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate a SCOTS, Transport Scotland, Health and Safety Executive and Law Society engagement group to ensure better understanding and appreciation between technical and legal parties involved in the road maintenance industry Develop an overarching communication strategy that raises awareness of the critical value of road maintenance Set up a National Roads Research Working Group with a remit for all road maintenance research topics. This is to coordinate potential new products or techniques and share knowledge and experience Further coordinated work on: joint repair techniques, pothole repairs, bridge repair techniques, and footway repairs Review the recommendations of the current winter maintenance service review to identify how they can be integrated into the NRMR Increase the scope of the Transport Scotland website to include local roads authorities to offer a single portal for all travel information Investigate existing council surveys and the Scottish Household Survey to capture public perceptions in a cost-effective way 	NRMR	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond actively to emerging guidance and other support intended to promote innovation and knowledge sharing across councils, and the consideration of shared services options (2013) 	AS	
		<p>76-79</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver and adopt SCOTS recommended minimum levels of service for road maintenance for councils Implement Transport Scotland review of maintenance thresholds and condition parameters for identification of maintenance schemes Review current traffic management standards at roadworks to provide more customisable approach Develop a mechanism to review and authorise Scottish amendments from UK standards, eg use of reflective materials in lieu of lighting standards Review Scottish technical standards against UK and international equivalents to identify examples of over-specification, where relaxation or a risk based 	NRMR

Cont.

Theme	Report Paragraph	Action	AS / NRMR
Enabling faster change		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Scottish Road Works Commissioner reports with regard to potential charges for overrunning • Potential contributions from utility companies to the costs of making good the long-term damage to roads owing to reinstatement • Investigate means/barriers/benefits to allocating resources from asset sales to inject into roads improvement • Review the conflict between road construction periods, working periods in different circumstances, budget cycles and road user demands • Investigate funding distribution options to reflect need based on road use and hierarchy 	NRMR



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