

To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

On: 26 January 2022

**Report by: Director of Environment & Infrastructure and
Director of Communities and Housing**

Heading: Operational Performance Report

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of key service activities since the last Policy Board report on 3rd of November 2021 and an operational performance update on the services and key projects delivered during this period.
 - 1.2 Operational Services have continued on a 'business as usual' basis while working within the current Covid-19 restrictions. All required safety measures are in place and are now well established.
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2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board:

- 2.1 Approves the operational performance update detailed within this report.
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3. Background

- 3.1 Environment & Infrastructure provides essential services to every household in Renfrewshire and works in partnership with the local community, other service areas and Community Planning Partners, to deliver key Council priorities and initiatives. A progress update on the main activities delivered by the services within Environment & Infrastructure, in respect of the areas of activity delegated to this Policy Board, is detailed below.

- 3.2 Operational Services have continued to deliver services as normal while working within the current Covid-19 restrictions. These include social distancing, enhanced cleaning and PPE measures. Employees across the service continue to show great commitment and resilience while delivering essential services, across Renfrewshire.
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Updates for Infrastructure Land and Environment Policy Board

4 Fleet, Roads and Transportation

4.1 Depot Improvements – Underwood Road

The service continues to carry out maintenance and improvements to Underwood Road depot. The installation of new access barriers and digital CCTV to improve safety and security of the site are well underway and are scheduled to be complete by the end of January. The improvement to the parking is progressing well with the area to left hand side of the entrance in operation and the new hedgerow already planted, with the centre area and hedgerow to the right being completed in February. We have received the design for the RCV parking area with works due to be complete in March.

4.2 Fleet Vehicle Repair Workshop

The improvement works to the vehicle repair workshop and equipment is now complete and operational. The new safety inspection pit, computerised brake testing, suspension, steering and light testing that are all integral to the facility will bring significant benefits to productivity, safer working methods and compliance. Also, the new taxi testing lane and vehicle tyre fitting station are complete and fully operational. This project is now complete.

4.3 Roads Capital Programme

The Roads Capital investment programme for 2021/22 is nearing completion. The carriageway resurfacing element has ended for the year with 90 of the programmed 98 schemes complete. 8 schemes did not commence due to either lack of contractor availability or proximity to COVID19 testing centres, these will carry into the next financial year. 30 footways have also been resurfaced and this work will continue until March.

The surface dressing programme is complete (16 schemes) as is the micro-surfacing programme (16 schemes) with only remedial works remaining. The permanent patching programme will continue for the coming months.

Community Investment Fund

- 4.4 Members were updated at the last meeting of the ILE Policy Board in relation to the launch of the #YouDecide campaign on 4 October 2021.

- 4.5 A wide ranging programme of community engagement took place between 4 October and 14 November with roadshows taking place across Renfrewshire. The campaign was supported by a highly visible marketing and communications campaign including radio adverts, bus shelter advertising and leaflet drops. Officers from the team

attended each of the local partnership meetings to raise awareness of the fund and provide an overview of the next steps.

- 4.6 The engagement with the communities has been a positive experience with communities and individuals contributing 2,843 ideas. These ideas will now be shortlisted prior to being taken forward to a public vote in February 2022.

4.7 **Winter Maintenance**

Roads Operations have been conducting winter maintenance duties since the 1st of October. Up until the 12th of January the service has applied salt to the roads of Renfrewshire on 39 days using 2,188 tonnes of salt. Stocks are replenished on a rolling programme when required to maintain resilience.

4.8 **Active Travel Update**

- 4.8.1 The White Cart footbridge reopened on 25th November 2021 after more than a quarter of a century. The link over the river will soon form part of a new walking and cycle route from Renfrew to Paisley planned for construction in 2022, as well as complementing the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside project and Glasgow Airport Cycle Route. The refurbishment of the bridge also precedes £38million of investment from the Levelling Up Fund for the area, which includes a new road bridge over the White Cart, an east-west road linking Renfrew Road and Love Street, and enhance links with Paisley town centre, Glasgow Airport and the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland.

- 4.8.2 The build phase for the Mission Clyde funded route along the abandoned rail line parallel to Renfrew Road as far as Wright Street, and then onwards to Renfrew riverside is starting at the end of January 2022. The project will provide an important active travel link from Paisley Gilmour Street Station all the way to the River Clyde. The route passes close to two primary schools, the proposed site for Paisley Grammar School, two public parks and a number of important retail and employment sites. In addition, funding has been recently received for an extension of this route under the Renfrew Road bridge to Gallowhill.

- 4.8.3 Works to strengthen the weak footways on Crosslee bridge, over the national cycle route 7, started in November 2021. This is one of the last in the programme to bring all the Council's bridges fully to national weight bearing standard.

- 4.8.4 The Council has been successful in securing £143,000 from Sustrans Scotland to upgrade the National Cycle Route network in Renfrewshire.

Works will take place at a total of 11 sites along the national cycle route network and will include works to improve access, including lowering kerbs, improving sightlines and installation of ramps. The works will take place in the following locations:

- B21/11 NCR7 to Clippens Rd and Kashmir Ave Linwood
- B21/13 NCR7 Green Rd Paisley
- B21/17 NCR7 Lounsdale Rd / Green Rd Paisley
- B21/22 NCR7 to South Campbell St Paisley

- B21/2 NCR75 link to Horsewood Rd Bridge of Weir
- B21/3 NCR75 new link to Livery Sq Bridge of Weir
- B21/6 NCR75 Prieston Rd Bridge of Weir
- B21/7 NCR75 link to Gilmartin Road Linwood
- B21/8 NCR75 Stirling Dr Linwood
- B21/9a NCR7 Muirend Dr Linwood
- B21/10 NCR75 Muirend Dr Linwood (ramp)

Due to the nature of this funding, work will begin in mid-January 2022 and we aim for our contractor to complete them by the end of March 2022. All Elected Members, the relevant Community Councils and Local Partnerships have been advised of the works taking place.

- 4.8.5 The segregated shared cycle way project from Bishopton and Dargavel to Glasgow Airport started in November 2021, with the section from Red Smiddy Roundabout to Inchinnan Drive Roundabout, with planned completion date of March 2022. This is an important element in the Council's cycling strategy network and will connect to City Deal's proposals for around Glasgow airport.
- 4.8.6 Environment & Infrastructure Services continue to work with schools and communities to implement new Active Travel projects as part of the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places funding programme. Trinity High and St David's Primary were awarded funding to increase active travel options with cycle stands.
- 4.8.7 The pilot feasibility traffic reduction studies in village settings within Renfrewshire has started with the consultation phase with key stakeholders. The pilot will initially focus on the villages of Howwood, Kilbarchan and Houston which have distinct traffic and speeding related issue. It is proposed that the feasibility studies are carried out to assess traffic volumes, speeds and travel patterns and then consider a range of potential traffic interventions that could improve road safety in the areas.
- 4.8.8 The pilot of a Pay by Phone Parking App has been awarded, this will see the rationalisation and relocation of some older style parking meters with a payment option being provided through a smartphone App.
- 4.8.9 Better Points is a travel incentive scheme which will be implemented in Johnstone for 12 months by providing a smartphone app to motivate employees and the public to make positive changes to their behaviour by travelling more sustainably. BetterPoints Limited are the developers of this initiative. A feasibility study for Renfrewshire Council conducted by Arcadis in 2020/21 on the cost effectiveness of Better Points as a carbon reduction tool, recommended a 12-month trial and the contract has been awarded with results of trial brought back to this board.

4.9 Pavement Parking Consultation

- 4.9.1 Members will be aware of one of the key provisions of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 was to introduce a ban on pavement parking. The implementation of the ban

has been delayed, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it is now expected that the ban will be in place for 2023.

4.9.2 As part of the implementation the Scottish Government has launched the first in a series of consultations on specific aspects of the proposed regulations. The first of these was launched on the 17th December 2021 with a closing date of March 2022. This particular consultation focusses on the proposals around local authorities issuing exemptions to streets as part of the ban. Although the consultation asks a number of set questions, the main focus of the consultation is proposing that Councils adopt a similar process for exemptions as there is for Traffic Regulation Orders. This would mean a statutory consultation period as well as specific criteria that the exemption should meet.

4.9.3 Officers will look to respond to this consultation. The deadline is before the next Policy board and as such will look to agree the response in consultation with the convener of the ILE for submission.

5 Parks Investment

5.1 The tender process for Maxwellton Park has been completed and the contract awarded. Lochwinnoch did not receive any valid bids, this tender was reissued on 15 December 2021 along with phase 2 tenders which included Tinto Square, East End Park, Ben Lawers (Hawkhead Park), Durrockstock Park, Morar Drive and Ellerslie Street. The closing date for these submissions is 11th February 2022.

5.2 Clearing of the area in Robertson Park which included thinning of overhead tree canopies, trimming back and clearing undergrowth is now complete. The next stage is to reinstate to grass and then the installation of outdoor gym equipment can take place in the spring of 2022. The Council has been working with the local community through the newly established Friends of Robertson Park to shape and support this investment. We consulted with the community through December and early January with 479 responses being received on what they would like to see within this area. This has been taken forward into a tendering process to reflect the community's wishes.

6 StreetScene

6.1 In June 2014, the Scottish Government published the country's first National Litter Strategy "*Towards a Litter Free Scotland: A Strategic Approach to Higher Quality Local Environments*". This was further reviewed in November 2019 and whilst there were some successes, it was widely noted that litter and fly tipping remained a problem across the whole of Scotland.

6.2 As a result, the Scottish Government, in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland, Keep Scotland Beautiful and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), launched a consultation seeking views on the aims, objectives and actions that will sit under the new *National Litter and Flytipping Strategy for Scotland*. The consultation was published on 13 December 2021 and will run until 31 March 2022.

- 6.3 Individual members of the public or groups can feed into the draft strategy via the following link - <https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/national-litter-and-flytipping-strategy/>. It is proposed that a paper and draft response to the consultation is brought back to the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board on 23 March 2022 to allow a Renfrewshire Council response to be submitted.
- 6.4 A list of statues, monuments and plaques and their respective locations within Renfrewshire has been established, plotted and recorded on the Council's asset database along with respective ownership and responsibility where this information is known. Cleaning works on 4 of the statues in Paisley Town Centre have been completed.

7 Climate Change

Electric Vehicle Chargepoints

- 7.1 Installation of additional electric charging equipment in Underwood Road is complete, the charging network within the depot cannot be expanded further until the new main power supply and substation are installed later in 2022.
- 7.2 Electric Vehicle charging points have been installed at Robertson Park Depot in Renfrew for Fleet Vehicles. The contract for an EV Charging Hub at Stow Brae Car Park has been awarded as part of the regeneration works planned for Causeyside Street and providing local residents, businesses and rail users of Canal Street Station with twelve electric vehicle charging bays.

Biodiversity

- 7.3 With the establishment of the Biodiversity Officer role within Streetscene, teams are now actively working to implement the previously approved 7 areas:
- Wildflower Corridors (3)
Paisley - Linwood Road
Paisley, St James's - Greenock Road
Erskine - A726
 - Wildflower Areas (2, small)
Paisley - Glenburn Road
Johnstone - Spateston
 - Trees & Woodland Plantations (2)
Inchinnan - Freeland Drive
Paisley - Newark Drive /Mossneuk Drive /Nethercraigs Drive

8 Team Up to Clean Up

- 8.1 As Team Up to Clean Up closes its fourth calendar year, the award-winning Campaign continues to appeal to Renfrewshire residents with almost 3,500 members. Team Up to Clean Up grew considerably throughout the year as a consequence of the pandemic/lockdown and individuals seeking to carry out a worthwhile, feel-good activity to improve local nature and their neighbourhoods. Throughout 2021, almost 9,000 volunteers removed 17,000 bags of litter, weeds or detritus during 4,500 events.

A physical event to demonstrate the Council's gratitude to the volunteers has not been possible, therefore Erskine Arts created a short video with staff involved in the Campaign, including relevant Conveners / Depute Conveners, thanking volunteers for their ongoing efforts. Volunteers were further offered a platform to voice what the Campaign means to them. The top 14 volunteers were gifted a practical Handicart trolley to assist in undertaking their on-going litterpicks.

- 8.2 Participating volunteers in the Winter Warriors mini project were issued with new supplies of salt to ensure gifted salt spreaders remain a valuable and effective community resource.

9 Waste and Recycling Services

- 9.1 Waste Operations are using the real-time data being compiled by operatives to reduce missed collections with promising results so far. This is reviewed daily and allows the data to be interrogated to reveal service issues and develop permanent solutions to reduce future recurrence. Having the most up to date information available assists more efficient deployment of staff is proving beneficial. The improved management information allows preventive and corrective actions to be taken and enables service queries to be answered with more accurate information.
- 9.2 The Service is reviewing the recycling infrastructure within the councils' school estate with a view to reducing residual waste and maximising the quantity and quality of recycling. Also, the area by area review has commenced, starting with Commercial collections in Johnstone, this will be dovetailed with the works in schools to improve infrastructure and recycling in both these areas.
- 9.3 The Council's two bids to the Scottish Governments Recycling Improvement Fund (RIF) were unsuccessful, however follow up discussions have been taking place with representatives from Zero Waste Scotland to explore alternative options for the next round of funding. A number of other bids which sought to improve the volume of recyclables being removed from the waste stream across Scotland were accepted and these projects will be implemented during the current financial year. The board will be kept appraised of any future bids to the RIF.
- 9.4 As reported to board on 3 November 2021, funding was awarded from Zero Waste Scotland for the undertaking of a full detailed waste and recycling composition analysis. Following on from a tender process, the analysis is taking place from 21st February 2022, running for 4 weeks with the project being completed for 31st March 2022. The results of the analysis will be used to aid the Council in its future Waste Strategy planning as well as measuring the success (or otherwise) of its current recycling collections.

10 Awards

- 10.1 The roads operations team performance reported through the APSE performance network demonstrated strong contention for 'Most improved Council for Highway

Maintenance and Winter Maintenance’. Unfortunately, the team was unsuccessful as overall winners in this category at the awards on Friday 3 December 2021.

10.2 **Local Government Chronicles (LGC)**

Team Up to Clean Up was shortlisted in 2 categories for the LGC awards. The two categories were

- Environmental Services, and
- Community Involvement.

Presentations for each of these categories were well received on 23 and 24 of September in Shoreditch, London. Unfortunately, Team Up to Clean Up was unsuccessful as overall winners in these categories at the awards on 4 November 2021.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The proposed reintroduction of car parking charges will recommence income from Council car parks in Paisley Town Centre.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community & Council Planning**

Our Renfrewshire is thriving / Reshaping our place, our economy and our future - the service is actively involved in the Invest in Renfrewshire scheme and investing in road network to support and facilitate economic growth.

Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy - working in partnership with the community to deliver a cleaner Renfrewshire. Promoting and encouraging waste minimisation through reducing, reusing and recycling. Reducing carbon emissions, through LED streetlights and electric and low emission vehicles within the Council fleet.

Our Renfrewshire is well - the service encourages use of our parks and open spaces to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

4. **Legal** – None
5. **Property/Assets** – The Council’s roads, fleet and open space infrastructure is maintained and enhanced.
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals’ human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If

required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website

8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** – CRMG are continuing to review the Council's risk profile in light of the coronavirus pandemic.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None
12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – None
13. **Climate Risk** – The Council continues to explore opportunities to secure external funding to deliver sustainable, green infrastructure projects.

List of Background Papers: none

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