



Subject:	Update on Motion: Support for Roads Infrastructure in Scotland
Date:	21st June, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a response which has been received from Mr. Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, in relation to the Council's motion on Support for Roads Infrastructure in Scotland.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council, at its meeting on 4th March, passed the following motion on Support for Roads Infrastructure in Scotland, which had been proposed by Alderman Kingston and seconded by former Reynolds:

“This Council:

— *Recognises the long-standing cultural and economic ties between Northern Ireland and Scotland, and that fundamental to increasing the benefit to Belfast from this connection is the need to improve transport connections between Scotland and Northern Ireland;*

3.2

— *Welcomes that the ferry services between Cairnryan and Belfast, by Stena Line, 6 times per day, and between Cairnryan and Larne, by P&O, 7 times per day, are among the busiest services in the UK and represent a strong opportunity for economic and tourism growth; however, the inadequate transport infrastructure beyond the ferry terminals at Cairnryan is inhibiting that growth and require investment to bring them up to standard;*

3.3

— *Supports the campaign in Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway for investment in the roads infrastructure - along the A77 towards Glasgow/central Scotland and along the A75 towards the Scotland/England border, which are both predominantly single carriageway routes and pass through a number of small towns and villages – and in the rail infrastructure along the same routes, and agrees to write to the Scottish Government in support of calls for a long-term programme of such investment in the transport infrastructure of South West Scotland.”*

3.4

3.5

A Letter was forwarded subsequently to the Scottish First Minister in relation to the motion and a response (copy attached) has been received from Mr. Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

3.6

In his response, Mr. Matheson indicates that Transport Scotland have been taking forward the South West Scotland Transport Study, which has a particular focus on access to the ports at Cairnryan. The draft findings of that are due to be published soon and the public and interested parties can provide comments before the final report is published.

3.7

In addition, he points out that Scotland’s National Transport Strategy is currently being reviewed. The Review will work on a draft strategy, which will provide a further opportunity to engage on connectivity between, Scotland Northern Ireland and England.

3.8	<p>In conclusion, Mar Matheson thanked the Council for its interest and has asked officials at Transport Scotland to consider the points it has made in the South West of Scotland Transport Strategy.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.9	<p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.10	<p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - Response from Mr. Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity.</p>