

Bin Collections and Civic Amenity Sites

- 3.3 Bin collections continue to full schedules. As of 9 August 2021 the requirement for additional vehicles to ensure we have no more than 2 people per vehicle is no longer required. All civic amenity sites are fully open and operating well with no significant issues to note.

Waste Strategy

- 3.4 Work continues on the Council's Waste

- 3.10 As part of the budget process we carried out a review of public transport which has resulted in an action plan which has been considered by the Budget Working Group and a number of these are being progressed.

Bridge Inspections

- 3.11 The Infrastructure Design team continue to carry out bridge inspections to all approx 900 structures on a rolling programme across Argyll and Bute to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose. This inspection regime identifies remedial works which are programmed for delivery.

Rothesay Pontoons

- 3.12 Additional ground investigation works are ongoing at the time of writing and we expect the results of that work to be available by the end of August. The ground investigation works will help determine how the project is completed.
- 3.13 The West Arm remains available for cruise ships as an alternative arrangement should cruise ships be able to resume visits.

Bus Services in Bute and Cowal

- 3.14 Bus services in Bute and Cowal are provided by West Coast Motors (WCM). These services would not be commercially viable in their own right, so they are subsidised in order for them to be sustainable.
- 3.15 It should be noted that:
- a) Staffing resources – at present 100% of the WCM workforce are being utilised, with a significant increase in cleaning and safety requirements having a consequential impact on staff tasks/commitments
 - b) Fleet resources – the fleet is being fully utilised but, due to COVID requirements like enhanced cleaning between drives and limitations on the number of drivers using the same vehicle throughout the day means the fleet cannot be operated as efficiently as it was pre-COVID
 - c) Fare income – down as a result of reduced patronage which is around 60% of pre-COVID levels.
- 3.16 At present WCM are operating 87% of pre-COVID mileage which does not include the additional mileage as operated on the Pingo service. This service accounts for an additional 3500 miles per month, compared with a very low mileage pre-COVID. Taking this in to account, the mileage WCM are operating is at 93% of the pre-COVID mileage.
- 3.17 Overall officers are satisfied that the changes made by WCM are reasonable in the circumstances and balance supply to actual demand, and that they continue to provide a safe and sensible level of provision.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 This report gives a general update to local members on recent Roads and Infrastructure activities.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy – various policies referred to within the body of the report

5.2 Financial – none

5.3 Legal – none known

5.4 HR – none known

5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: (please refer to guidance on Hub)

5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics – none known

5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – none known

5.5.3 Islands – none known

5.6. Risk – none known

5.7 Customer Service - none

**Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services
Kirsty Flanagan**

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