



From mountain to sea

# **Public Road Network - Bridges Work Bank Prioritisation Policy**

13 May 2021



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Policy Status	Final as of 13 May 2021)
Responsible Officer	D Macpherson, Bridges and Structures Manager, Roads, Landscape and Waste
Policy Sponsor	P. McKay, Head of Service, Roads, Landscape and Waste
Authorised by	Donald Macpherson
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Revision Date	Previous revision date	Summary of changes
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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Roads are amongst the most influential agents of society. They are the pathways of industry, social cohesion and national opportunity, rendering economic growth practicable. Roads connect the city and town with the village and farm, linking areas of production to commercial markets. Communities, no matter their size, are reliant on the road network to sustain their connectivity.
- 1.2 Aberdeenshire Council is responsible for 3,500 miles of public road, carried by 1,308 bridges, which equates to a bridge approximately every 2.7 miles of road. This reflects the highly dispersed and economically active communities that we have across our area.
- 1.3 Recent years have seen an increase in the number of bridge closures and restrictions due to undermining from excessive water flow in channels (scour) and accelerating deterioration in structural condition, often as a consequence of the age of the structure. This policy has been developed to clearly demonstrate how remedial works required on bridges will be prioritised and available funding will be allocated. In doing so, the bridges at risk will be highlighted allowing mitigation to be considered.

## 2 Policy Statement

**Aberdeenshire Council recognises the age profile of its bridge stock and the necessity to prioritise an identified bridges work bank in the pursuit of supporting an efficient and effective public road network.**

**We will:**

- **Provide a clear method for the prioritisation and scheduling of the work bank, to be referenced in a specific procedure.**
  - **Apply this procedure across Aberdeenshire based on need and allocated budgets.**
  - **Review the “Prioritised List” annually and report to the six Area Committees on an annual identified works programme.**
  - **Review the Policy every two years and update as appropriate.**
  - **Promote explanation of Policy and Procedure to communities when circumstances require.**
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### **3 Scope**

This policy shall apply to:

All bridges carrying public roads for which Aberdeenshire Council is the Bridge Authority.

### **4 Implementation and Compliance**

Aberdeenshire Council's Bridges Work Bank Prioritisation Procedure contains detailed direction on the establishment of a prioritised work bank list. The Bridges and Structures Manager will be responsible for updating this Procedure to reflect changes in legislation and any other improvements or amendments considered to be needed.

Ends

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