



October 30th, 2023

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 30th October 2023** at **6:00 pm** in **Microsoft Teams & Downshire Civic Centre.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

Councillors Harte, Brennan, Devlin, Finn, Galbraith, Lee-Surginor, Mathers, S Murphy,

Marie Ward, Chief Executive

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 DFI Roads Annual Report

Attending via Teams:

Mark McPeak, Divisional Roads Manager

Stephen Duffy, Section Engineer

Colin Woods, Deputy Secretary

REPORT EMBARGOED UNTIL 30th OCTOBER 2023

📎 *Final Report - DfI Roads Southern - Report to Newry Mourne Down District Council
23 24.pdf*

Page 1

📎 *Letter to Councils September 2023 - Newry Mourne and Down Council.pdf*

Page 69



**DFI ROADS
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

Report to
**NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Annual Report 2023/24

A7, Crossgar Road, Saintfield – Completed Resurfacing

Contents

- Foreword 4
- Southern Division - Senior Management Structure 6
- About Southern Division 7
- SECTION 1 - PLANNING & STREETLIGHTING 8**
- 1.1 Development Control 9
- 1.2 Private Streets - Adoptions 12
- 1.3 Private Streets - Enforcement 13
- 1.4 Local Development Plans 14
- 1.5 Street Lighting 15
- SECTION 2 - NETWORK DEVELOPMENT 18**
- LOCAL TRANSPORT AND SAFETY MEASURES 19
- 2.1 Completed Works 2022 – 2023 20
- 2.2 Planned Works 2023 – 2024 25
- SECTION 3 - NETWORK MAINTENANCE 28**
- EXPLANATION OF MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS 29
- Street Works 31
- STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE COMPLETED WORKS 2022 – 2023 32
- Completed Surfacing 32
- Completed Footway Resurfacing 41
- Completed Drainage Maintenance Works 43
- STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROPOSED WORKS 2023 – 2024 47
- Proposed Surfacing 47
- Proposed Footway Resurfacing 54
- Proposed Drainage Works 55
- ROUTINE MAINTENANCE COMPLETED WORKS 2022 – 2023 56
- Grass Cutting 56
- Defects 56
- Public Liability Claims 56
- MAINTENANCE OF STRUCTURES 57
- Structural Maintenance Schemes Completed Works 2022 – 2023 57
- Vehicle Restraint Systems Upgrade Completed Works 2022 – 2023 57
- Structural Maintenance Schemes Planned Works 2023 – 2024 57
- Vehicle Restraint Systems Upgrade Planned Works 2023 – 2024 58

LANDS SECTION..... 59

WINTER SERVICE 60

SECTION 4 – MAJOR PROJECTS SOUTH.....61

4.1 A24 Ballynahinch Bypass..... 62

4.2 Newry Southern Relief Road 63

SECTION 5 - STRANGFORD LOUGH FERRY SERVICE66

SECTION 6 - ENGAGING WITH DFI ROADS.....67

Dealing with Correspondence / Public Interface..... 67

Emergency Out of Office Hours Assistance..... 67

DfI Roads Contact Details..... 68

Foreword

I have pleasure in submitting the Roads 2023/24 Annual Report on the work of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads across the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

This report deals with works completed across the Council area during the year 2022/23 and sets out our initial proposals for schemes to be undertaken in the year 2023/24.

The road network is Northern Ireland's largest and most valuable strategic infrastructure asset. Its presence and quality is an implied assumption in all public services but has not been given the sufficient funding needed for its essential maintenance. This is a strategic risk to our future prosperity, safety and well-being. Road maintenance expenditure is consistently below the required levels to maintain our existing standard of infrastructure. By way of an example, improvements to extend the lifespan of our roads (through essential maintenance) over the past decade has totalled almost £1bn of underinvestment. The consequence of this underinvestment is an asset that deteriorates more quickly and results in more costly and complex interventions in the future. Put simply, we recognise that it would be better value to maintain the asset well and in a timely fashion but regrettably we currently do not have the funding to be able to do more.

The Secretary of State provided all NI Departments with budgets for 2023/24.

The Department is managing a 14% reduction in its 2023/24 Resource budget allocation when compared to 2022/23 on a like for like basis. Despite every effort to reduce spend across the Department and its Arms Length Bodies, we still face a significant funding gap.

The opening Capital budget for structural maintenance of the road network in 2023/24 is £85m, which is welcomed but still falls well short of the £143 million (£192m at today's prices) required annually to maintain the road network in a reasonable condition.

The Department's ability to spend its budget allocation is dependent on having sufficient contracting resource to hand to deliver the work. Following the legal challenges to the award of asphalt resurfacing contracts in 2021 the Department successfully procured two term contracts for the Council area in July 2022. Whilst regrettably this has meant a delay in starting much needed resurfacing in 2022/23, progress is now being made to deliver much needed resurfacing work across the Council area. The Department is also developing a Procurement Enhancement Programme to further improve the procurement and delivery of contracts.

Capital funding has continued to be provided for Active Travel schemes given the requirement of the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 to invest into walking, wheeling and cycling. The Department has put in place a range of measures to increase delivery of high-quality active travel infrastructure throughout Northern Ireland.

The Department is working closely with Councils to better understand their five-year active travel programme and developing an appropriate grant and support framework for the delivery of greenways. We have commissioned a Northern Ireland wide Active Travel Network Delivery plan which is due for consultation in 2024. When complete, this Plan will provide a firm basis for the prioritisation of delivery of active travel infrastructure within and connecting our towns and cities. The Plan will complement and take account of the greenways network. We are

also implementing changes in the procurement of our active travel supply chain to ensure sufficient design resources are available to deal with increased demand in the coming years.

Regarding Major Projects in the Council area, development work on the A24 Ballynahinch Bypass is substantially concluded including the preparation of a draft business case however progression of the scheme will be informed by the Department's emerging transport plans and a decision by a future Infrastructure Minister. Development work on the Newry Southern Relief Road will continue to progress towards the next key decision regarding publication of draft Orders.

For many years, the Department has operated within a constrained Resource budget, with the opening baseline allocation insufficient to properly manage the public assets for which we are responsible and this is no different for this current year. As a result, we have historically relied on in-year funding to deliver many of our services. Added to these longer-term pressures are the unprecedented increases in energy and inflation prices.

In the face of such acute budgetary pressure the Department is currently continuing with a Limited Service policy for routine maintenance activities such as defect repair, grass cutting and gully emptying. The Limited Service policy allows the Department to repair defects greater than 50mm on all roads including low trafficked rural roads and on high trafficked roads, defects greater than 20mm will also be repaired. The Department will aim to cut all roadside verges and sightline grass at least twice between April and October on the on more heavily trafficked roads and once a year on other roads when it is safe to do so. This aims to balance the need for road safety while protecting our environment and encouraging biodiversity. However, sightlines at bends and junctions will be cut as frequently as required to ensure public safety.

At present a full street lighting repair service continues during 2023/24.

However, with the uncertainty around budgets it is important for us to monitor all maintenance activities within the constrained funding available going forward and difficult decisions may need to be made to re-align activities within funding levels as the year progresses.

The Division is currently facing significant staffing pressures which is impacting on our ability to deliver key services and public safety responsibilities. Therefore, in an effort to maximise our effectiveness I would strongly encourage Councillors who have access to the internet to please report road defects using the DfI online reporting facility provided by NIDirect. My operational teams are of course available to assist with emergency and public safety related queries and can be contacted using our generic email addresses or by phone using our emergency numbers shown on Page 58.

I hope that you find this report informative. I, along with a representative from one of our Section Offices, Stephen Duffy, as well as our Deputy Secretary Colin Woods, look forward to meeting the Council.

Mark McPeak
Divisional Roads Manager

Southern Division - Senior Management Structure



Mark McPeak
Divisional Manager

DfI Roads wishes to build upon the good working relationships it has with Council Members and Officers. The Divisional Senior Management Team is listed below, Day to day operational matters should be raised with the relevant Senior Engineers whose details are listed at the start of each section.



Aloysius Loughran
Road Planning Manager

Development Control, Private Streets, Local Development Plans and Street Lighting



Ryan Gough
Road Development Manager

Improvements and minor works



Alan McMurray
Road Maintenance Manager

Maintenance of existing road network



Brian Mc Clelland
Major Projects Team South Manager (Acting)

Major works schemes (>£5M)

About Southern Division

Southern Division is one of four Divisions within DfI Roads. It spans the local Council areas of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon; Newry Mourne and Down; and Newry, Mourne and Down Council Areas (see map below).



In Southern Division we are responsible for approximately 8000km of public road together with 1275 bridges, 121 signalised junctions, 182 stand alone signalised pedestrian controlled crossings, 83,412 streetlights and over 1000 illuminated signs and bollards. We carry out functions under the headings:

- **Major Projects South** – Major capital projects (>£5M) on Key Transport Links.
- **Road Maintenance** – Maintenance of the existing network. Maintenance activities include resurfacing, surface dressing and drainage works as well as grass cutting, gully emptying, patching, embankment/verge maintenance, fencing and provision of the Winter Service.
- **Road Development** - Improvements to the existing network to improve safety and traffic progression including Minor Works and Local Transport & Safety Measures.
- **Road Planning** - Regulation of additions to the network proposed by developers

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SECTION 1 - PLANNING & STREETLIGHTING

Planning Manager Aloysius Loughran

Aloysius is supported in Newry, Mourne and Down by the following staff:



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Senior Engineer

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Downpatrick

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Senior Engineer (Acting)

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Joseph O'Neill

Senior Engineer (Acting)

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Portadown

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1.1 Development Control

Planning Applications

In carrying out their planning functions Councils have a duty to consult a range of statutory bodies. DfI Roads on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure has entered into an agreement with each Council to provide views and advice on roads and transportation related issues.

DfI Roads in its consideration of planning applications, takes into account aspects of development which could prejudice traffic progression and safety in terms of junction capacity, access arrangements, parking standards and provision, road width, radii, gradients, drainage and sight lines. This consideration usually involves site visits and technical work. Compliance with transport policy and compatibility with road infrastructure is taken into account as well as any need for developer led improvements. Proposals are also checked for potential encroachment upon any future road lines. A detailed Transport Assessment may be required for larger developments where potential traffic impact may extend to road junctions some distance from the development site and where infrastructure improvements are deemed necessary as mitigation. For smaller developments a Transport Assessment Form is required to be completed by the applicant in order to ascertain the likely impact.

In the case of housing developments, the Private Streets (NI) Order 1980 is applied if a planning application includes streets which are to become public and maintainable by the Department. Development Control along with the associated Private Streets team determines the area to be adopted, arranges for the calculation of the bond amount, supervises construction of the streets and, following satisfactory completion by the developer, complete the process for adoption into the public road network. Should the developer not complete the street, DfI Roads can take appropriate enforcement action under the Private Streets Order to ensure satisfactory completion of works funded by the bond.

Other Development Control work includes participating in pre-application discussions and planning meetings, preparation of evidence and presentation of this at Planning Appeals. Assistance is given with enforcement cases associated with breaches of planning control. Input is provided for the use of planning case officers at Council Planning Committee meetings with attendance by Development Control Officers as required.

Please see Table 1, which shows all consultations our Development Control dealt with during the reporting period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area

TABLE 1: Planning Consultations

Consultation Details	Southern Division	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area
Number of consultations	3865	1721
Number of Pre-Planning Enquiries	91	29

Of the above applications 46 were housing developments involving the Private Streets (NI) Order 1980. Creating approximately 3.1km of new road and 3.5km of new footway.

Examples of major applications being dealt with are included in Table 2.

TABLE 2: Planning Consultations – major applications

Application	Location, Town / Townland
P/2015/0134/F Housing	Lands at Chequer Hill / College Gardens, Newry
LA07/2021/0589/F Housing	Lands at St.Clares Primary school, Newry
LA07/2021/1323/F Housing	Shore Road, Rostrevor
LA07/2021/2131/F Housing	Ashgrove Avenue, Newry
LA07/2021/2043/F Housing	Low Road, Meigh
LA07/2020/1724/RM Housing	McCrinks Lane, Camlough

Another application of significance is provided in Table 3.

TABLE 3: Planning Consultations – Significant Applications

Application	Location, Town / Townland
LA07/2022/0902/F Recreation	Warrenpoint

Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014

Development Control also responds to the Council in respect of applications under the Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014 and gives advice on various ad-hoc matters such as placing of planters and signage.

Roads (NI) Order 1993, Article 80

Article 80 applies to new vehicular accesses on to unclassified roads or agricultural accesses on to classified and unclassified roads. It covers proposals such as new driveway entrances and dropped kerbs and is used where planning permission is not required.

During the reporting period DfI Roads dealt with **22** Article 80 applications.

Development Control also provides evidence in respect of associated Article 84 appeals which are determined by the Planning Appeals Commission.

1.2 Private Streets - Adoptions

Completed Works 2022 – 2023

TABLE 4: Private Streets – Adoption numbers

Adoption Details	Southern Division	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area
Number of adoptions	60	19

TABLE 5: Adoption locations

Adoption locations	Date of Adoption
The Oaks, Newry	24/05/2022
Ben Crom Place, Newry Road, Kilkeel	31/05/2022
Riverview Walk, Ballynahinch	17/06/2022
Hillcrest Village, McKnights Hill, Bessbrook	24/06/2022
Ballyblagh Meadows, Glen Road, Newry	05/08/2022
42 Belfast Road, Newry	05/08/2022
Owen Road, Mayobridge	11/08/2022
Clanbrassil, Middle Tollymore Road, Newcastle	01/09/2022
Belvedere Heights, Burren, Warrenpoint	12/09/2022
Harbour Road, Kilkeel	03/10/2022
Mountain View, Burrenwood Road, Castlewellan	13/10/2022
11 Seacliff Close, Newcastle	13/10/2022
Carquillan, Hilltown, Newry	19/10/2022
Carquillan, Hilltown, Newry	20/10/2022
Moss Lane, Ballynahinch	08/11/2022
Forde Gardens, Seaforde	24/01/2023
Hunters Park, Castlewellan Road, Newcastle	07/02/2023
Seaview Lane, Newcastle	07/02/2023
Edengrove, Ballynahinch	07/02/2023

During the reporting period Private Streets Section has been successful in adopting a total of 19 private developments comprising 2318 metres of carriageway and 545 metres footway into the publicly maintained road network.

1.3 Private Streets - Enforcement

Private Streets Section continues to invoke enforcement proceedings against developers who fail in their responsibility to provide road bonds before commencement of work on site. This takes the form of a series of warning letters followed, if necessary, by enforcement action.

Private Streets Section continues to work with developers on backlog housing sites with the objective of having work completed to an adoptable standard. Where it becomes evident that a developer is either no longer trading or is incapable or unwilling to complete the work, DfI Roads will consider initiating enforcement action. This may result in the need for DfI Roads to complete the works and recover the costs from the road bond under Articles 13 and 15 of the Private Streets Order 1980.

DfI Roads is currently carrying out works on the following development sites through enforcement action:

Planned Works 2023 – 2024

TABLE 6: Private Streets – Enforcements

Enforcement location
Sloanehill, Comber Road, Killyleagh
Chapelview, Crossmaglen

Property Certificates

Private Streets Section coordinates the DfI Roads response to Property Certificate Enquiries. Property Certificate numbers are not available for the full year 2022/23, as the new NI Planning Portal was launched in December 2022 and the old system is not available.

The Planning Portal can be used to submit, view and comment on planning applications online by the link <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/planning-portal>.

1.4 Local Development Plans

Advice

The Department can provide advice to the Council area on transportation matters for Local Transport Plans and Community Plans as well as work on strategic development planning applications.

The table below shows all consultations dealt with, during the reporting period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area.

TABLE 7: Local Development Plan Consultations

Consultation Details	Southern Division	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area
Number of formal consultations	2	1
Number of informal consultations	0	0

1.5 Street Lighting

The total number of streetlights in Southern Division is approximately 83412, of which 26,000 (31%) are in the Newry Mourne and Down Council area.

Completed Works 2022 – 2023

TABLE 8: Street Lighting – completed

Location	Scheme Description
Sandy Street, Newry	Replacement
Cedar Grove, Newry	Replacement
Main Street, Annalong	Recabling
Barr Crescent / School Road, Lurganare	Replacement
St Patricks Park, Hilltown	Replacement
Hospital Road, Newry	Replacement
Burren Road, Warrenpoint	Replacement

Upgrading of existing street lighting to LED Lanterns

The LED retro fit programme is continuing across the Division. The intention is to reduce energy and maintenance costs by replacing old SOX and SON Lanterns. These are expensive to maintain and the ability to replace parts is diminishing as the production of these parts are being run down. Our target of replacing 3474 SOX and SON lanterns with modern LED lanterns in the council area has been met.

Street Lighting Maintenance

Since April 2015, DfI Roads only repairs those defective street lights reported by the public or their representatives. In order to facilitate this process, reports of defective lights can now be made directly on line via the NI Direct website at the web address:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/report-street-light-fault>

Reports made via this web page automatically generate a works order to the appropriate contractor to have the defect repaired.

Reports can also be made by telephone at 0300 200 7899.

Priority is given to emergency defects i.e. those defects posing a direct structural or electrical hazard, then to groups of lights out, groups of lights burning continuously and finally to individual lights out.

Repair of faults to streetlights

Our response times are:-

Emergency, responded to a Road Traffic Collision within an hour and a half to site (1.5hrs) where a streetlighting column has been damaged. This is only to make safe and protect the public from danger to exposure of live cables or the column falling down.

Urgent, respond within twenty-four hours (24hrs). This is to reinstate a knockdown of a column possibly at a critical junction.

Normal lamp maintenance within five days (5 days). It is not always possible to fulfil the 5 day response. This can be down to a combination of factors. The amount of outages on the system, cable faults on the cable network or staff shortages. We also try to ensure that at least 95% of streetlights are recorded as working on the LMS at anytime, subject to budget being available.

Planned Works 2023 – 2024**TABLE 9: Street Lighting – planned**

Location	Scheme Description
Loanda Crescent and Martins Lane, Newry	Replacement
Newtown Road, Rostrevor	Replacement
Cambrook Estate, Bessbrook	Replacement
Forest Park and Low Road, Dromintee	Replacement
Mountainview Villas, Camlough	Replacement
Richmond Court, Newry	Replacement
Ardmore Road, Newry	Replacement
Dundalk Street, Newtownhamilton	Replacement
Canal Street, Newry	Replacement
Tandragee Road, Jerretspass	Replacement
Tuulamona Park, Tullyframe Road, Attical	Replacement
Carnagat Road, Road	Replacement
Marie Villas, Warrenpoint	Replacement
Pool Lane, Newry	Replacement
Lisdrum Park, Newry	Replacement

Location	Scheme Description
Glassdruman Road, Newry	Replacement
Greenbank Roundabout, Newry	Replacement
Millbank Industrial Estate, Warrenpoint	Replacement
Cardinal O'Fiaich Square, Crossmaglen, Newry	Replacement

SECTION 2 - NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Development Manager: Ryan Gough

Ryan is supported in Newry, Mourne and Down by:



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Senior Development Engineer

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David's team is responsible for the Newry and Mourne area.



Vincent McConville
Senior Development Engineer (Acting)

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Vincent's team is responsible for the Down area.

LOCAL TRANSPORT AND SAFETY MEASURES

The Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) identified the importance of Local Transport and Safety Measures (LTSM) and highlighted some of the principal initiatives to be addressed, including:

- local improvements in towns across the North to assist pedestrians and cyclists;
- local highway infrastructure measures to improve safety, such as collision remedial schemes and traffic calming schemes; and
- Network Development schemes (minor works).

LTSM expenditure tends to be widely spread and most communities benefit, as an individual scheme is relatively low cost in comparison to the cost of projects on the Strategic Works programme. They are usually very visible measures and provide good value for money in terms of a safer road transport system, which benefits society, the economy, the environment; and actively contributes to everyone's quality of life.

Types of LTSM projects include:

- Minor Works and Micro Schemes
- Traffic Management
- Pedestrian Measures
- Traffic Calming
- Collision Remedial
- Safer Routes to School
- Bus Priority Measures
- Cycling Measures
- Legislation

2.1 Completed Works 2022 – 2023**TABLE 10: Transportation – Cycling and Pedestrian Measures completed**

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
A0002	Dundrum Road, Clough	3m shared Pedestrian / Cycleway.	Complete
A0027	Craigmore Way, Newry	3m shared Pedestrian / Cycleway.	Substantially complete
A0028	Carnbane Way, Newry	3m shared Pedestrian / Cycleway.	Substantially complete
A0050	Newcastle Road, Castlewellan	3m shared Pedestrian / Cycleway.	Complete

TABLE 11: Road Signs, Markings, and Bollards completed

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
A0002	Dundrum Road, Newcastle	Speed Camera sign.	Complete
A0002	Shore Road, Strangford	Bend Warning signs.	Complete
A0002	Main Street, Dundrum	Replace Gateways.	Complete
A0002	South Promenade, Newcastle	30 Roundel.	Complete
A0007	Downpatrick Road, Crossgar	Bus Lay-By Markings.	Complete
A0021	Ballygowan Road, Saintfield	Give Way sign and Keep Left sign.	Complete
A0022	Killyleagh Road, Downpatrick	Marker Posts.	Complete
A0022	Downpatrick Road, Killyleagh	30 Roundel.	Complete
A0022	Comber Road, Killyleagh	30 Roundel.	Complete
A0024	Main Street, Clough	Bollards.	Complete
A0024	Main Street, Clough	Keep Left sign.	Complete
A0024	Drumaness Road, Ballynahinch	Marker Posts.	Complete
A0024	Newcastle Road, Seaforde	Marker Posts.	Complete
A0024	Main Street, Clough	Bollard.	Complete
A0025	Dublin Road, Kilcoo	Junction Warning signs.	Complete
A0025	Castlewellan Road, Clough	Junction Warning signs.	Complete
A0025	Castleward Road Strangford	Crossroads Warning signs.	Complete
A0025	Windsor Hill, Newry	Yellow Box Marking.	Complete

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
A0050	Ballyward Road, Castlewellan	Slow Marking.	Complete
B0002	Annacloy Road, Downpatrick	Slow Marking.	Complete
B0002	Annacloy Road, Downpatrick	Slow Marking.	Complete
B0006	Lisburn Road, Saintfield	Crossroads Warning sign.	Complete
B0006	Station Road, Saintfield	Bend Warning sign.	Complete
B0007	Ballynahinch Road, Crossgar	Directional sign.	Complete
B0007	Killyleagh Road and Ballytrim Road, Crossgar	Junction Warning signs.	Complete
B0007	Killyleagh Road, Downpatrick	Slow Marking.	Complete
B0007	Ballytrim Road, Downpatrick	Slow Marking.	Complete
B0079	Patrick Street / Dorans Hill, Newry	Yellow Box Marking.	Complete
B0175	Dunmore Road, Spa	Slow Markings and 30 roundel.	Complete
B0176	Killough Road, Downpatrick	Junction Warning sign and Crossroads Warning sign.	Complete
B0180	Bryansford Road, Newcastle	30 Roundel.	Complete
C0096	Corbally Road, Downpatrick	Give Way sign.	Complete
C0271	Station Road, Saintfield	Slow Marking.	Complete
C0277	Scaddy Road, Downpatrick	Advance Stop sign.	Complete
C0277	Scaddy Road, Crossgar	Slow Marking.	Complete
C0278	Loughinisland Road, Annacloy	Cattle Warning signs.	Complete
C0278	Tullynacree / Teconnaught Road, Annacloy	Direction sign for Loughinisland.	Complete
C0278	Loughinisland Road, Annacloy	Slow Marking.	Complete
C0280	Belfast Road / Finnebrogue Road Junction, Downpatrick	Direction sign for Killyleagh.	Complete
C0281	Saul Road, Downpatrick	Bollard.	Complete
C0283	Crew Road, Ardglass	2 Horse Warning signs.	Complete
C0283	Crew Road, Ardglass	2 Horse Warning signs.	Complete
C0291	Drumsnade Road, Drumaness	Multiple Bend Warning signs.	Complete
C0293	Drumcaw Road, Castlewellan	Moving direction sign.	Complete
C0312	Slievenaman Road, Bryansford	Crossroads signs.	Complete

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
C0322	Ballymackilreiny Road, Castlewellan	Give Way sign.	Complete
C0324	Clarkhill Road, Castlewellan	Bend Warning sign and Chevron sign.	Complete
C0324	Clarkhill Road, Castlewellan	Chevron and Bend Warning sign.	Complete
C0366	Ballyhornan Road, Ballyalton	Gateway signage replaced.	Complete
C0366	Ballyhornan Road, Ballyward	Chevron on yellow backing and Bend Warning signs.	Complete
U0119	Grove Road, Spa	Advanced Give Way sign.	Complete
U0125	Old Grand Jury Road, Saintfield	Bollard.	Complete
U0204	Moyadd Road, Kilcoo	Bend Warning signs	Complete
U0306	Erenagh Road, Downpatrick	Give Way sign.	Complete
U0345	Coily Hill Road, Killyleagh	Replacing Gateway sign.	Complete
U0361	Listrooder Road, Saintfield	2 Cattle Crossing Warning signs.	Complete
U0609	Fountain Street, Downpatrick	HGV All Routes sign.	Complete
U0609	Fountain Street, Downpatrick	HGV All Routes sign.	Complete
U0637	Church Avenue, Dundrum	No Entry and Give Way markings.	Complete
U1313	Castlescreen Road, Downpatrick	Give Way sign.	Complete
U4369	Flush Road, Maghera	Bend Warning sign and Chevron sign.	Complete
U6001	Colmcille Road, Downpatrick	T Bar Marking.	Complete
U6002	Irish Street, Downpatrick	Layby Markings.	Complete
U6003	English Street, Downpatrick	Keep Clear marking.	Complete
U6009	Edward Street, Downpatrick	T Bar Marking.	Complete
U6204	Park Parade, Newcastle	T-Bar Marking.	Complete
U6209	Shimna Vale, Newcastle	Stop sign.	Complete
U6280	Clanrye Avenue, Newry	Double Yellow Lines.	Complete
U6281	Hospital Road, Newry	Double Yellow Lines.	Complete
U6288	Albert Basin, Newry	Double Yellow Lines.	Complete

TABLE 12.1: Legislation – Speed Limits completed

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
A0025	Dublin Road, Kilcoo	New 30mph speed limit / Extension of existing 40mph speed limit.	Substantially complete

TABLE 12.2: Legislation – Waiting Restrictions completed

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
U6206	Yacht Club Access / Harbour Slip, Newcastle	Double Yellow Lines.	Substantially complete
U0361	Listooder Road, Saintfield	Double Yellow Lines.	Substantially complete
U6002	Irish Street, Downpatrick	Revocation of existing shared loading bay and provide a new parking bay with limited waiting.	Substantially complete

TABLE 12.3: Legislation - Traffic Orders (Road & Lane Closures) completed

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Various	Various	Newry Road Closures only – approx. 500 no.	Completed

TABLE 12.4: Legislation - Accessible Parking Bays completed

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
C0174	Fearons Terrace, Bessbrook	Accessible Parking Bay.	Complete
U5656	John F Kennedy Park, Bessbrook	Accessible Parking Bay.	Complete
U6280	Violet Hill Avenue, Newry	Accessible Parking Bay.	Complete
U6294	Lisgullion Park, Newry	Accessible Parking Bay.	Complete
U6402	Ardallan Park, Warrenpoint	Accessible Parking Bay.	Complete

TABLE 13: Accessible Parking [Dropped kerbs/mobility ramps] completed

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
A0021	Ballynahinch Road, Saintfield	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
A0024	Main Street, Ballynahinch	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
B0006	Killyleagh Road, Darraghcross	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
B0007	Crossgar Road, Ballynahinch	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
C0274	Barnamaghery Road, Darraghcross	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
U0030	Riverside Road, Ballynahinch	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
U0347	Sloane Crescent, Killyleagh	Dropped Kerbs. (3 Locations)	Complete
U6103	Willow Park, Ballynahinch	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
U6105	Windmill Gardens, Ballynahinch	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
U6200	King Street Newcastle	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
U6206	Golf Links Road / Crescent / Drive, Newcastle	Dropped Kerbs. (8 Locations)	Complete
U6206	Downs Road, Newcastle	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
U6400	Woodside Gardens Crossgar	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
U0693	Osborne Drive Shrigley	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
U6800	St Malachys Drive, Castlewellan	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete
U6800	Station Avenue, Castlewellan	Dropped Kerbs.	Complete

2.2 Planned Works 2023 – 2024**TABLE 14: Transportation - Pedestrian Measures planned**

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
A0002	William Street, Newry	Upgrade of controlled crossing to a Puffin x 2 no.	Planned 23/24
A0007	Belfast Road / Main Street / Todds Hill, Saintfield	A Traffic Signal Junction Upgrade incorporating Puffin facilities will be provided. Due to essential maintenance being required, the upgrade of this signalised junction will introduce an enhanced form of traffic control (MOVA) to improve junction efficiency and traffic progression. This scheme will also improve accessibility for pedestrians with the introduction of Puffin crossings.	Planned 24/25
A0024	Belfast Road, Ballynahinch	New Puffin Crossing.	Planned 23/24
A0025	Monaghan Street, Newry (at Lower Catherine Street)	Upgrade of controlled crossing to a Puffin.	Planned 23/24
A0025	Camlough Road, Newry (at Deramore Road)	Upgrade of controlled crossing to a Puffin.	Completed 23/24
A0025	Main Street, Castlewellan	The Pedestrian Crossing at this location remains on the programme for upgrading to a Puffin Crossing.	Planned 24/25
A0025	Main Street, Castlewellan (at the chapel)	The Pedestrian Crossing at this location remains on the programme for upgrading to a Puffin Crossing.	Planned 24/25
A0025	Camlough Road, Bessbrook (at St Pauls School)	Upgrade of controlled crossing to a Puffin.	Completed 23/24
A0050	Newcastle Road, Castlewellan	A new Puffin Crossing has been identified.	Planned 24/25
B0001	Ardglass Road / Edward Street, Downpatrick	An infill footway link along Ardglass Road and Edward Street from the junction with Ardglass Road across the frontage of the properties to tie into the forecourt of the local store is carried over from last year. A controlled	Planned 24/25

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
		crossing will also be provided on Ardglass Road.	
B0079	Patrick Street, Newry	Upgrade of controlled crossing to a Puffin.	Planned 23/24
C0281	St Patricks Road, Raholp	Proposed new footway across frontage of No.40.	Planned 23/24
U0051	Ballymaglave Road, Spa	Proposed new footway in vicinity of Spa Primary School.	Planned 24/25

Collision Remedial

The Department annually receives data from the PSNI relating to collisions on the network where injuries have been sustained. This information is assessed to identify clusters where incidents have occurred. These clusters are identified for further examination to determine the nature of the collisions, contributory factors and possible patterns. When engineering methods can be applied to address or improve the situation design proposals are then drawn up and implemented on a priority basis.

While we regret and are concerned about all road traffic collisions and give a high priority to collision reduction and prevention measures, councillors can hopefully appreciate that traffic collisions can be caused by a wide range of contributory factors, not all of which can be influenced or controlled by the provision of engineering measures.

The following schemes are planned for delivery in the Council area in the current financial year.

TABLE 15: Collision Remedial planned

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
A0007	Belfast Road / Finnebrogue Road, Downpatrick	Junction Visibility Improvements.	Planned 23/24
A0022	Old Belfast Road, Downpatrick (at Quoile Bridge)	Carriageway resurfacing and enhanced signage on the approach to Quoile bridge from Downpatrick.	Completed 23/24

TABLE 16: Legislation - Accessible Parking Bays planned

Road Number	Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
U0318	9 Pemberton Park, Downpatrick	Accessible Parking Bay.	Planned 23/24
U1113	23 Jordanstown, Clough	Remove Accessible Parking Bay.	Planned 23/24
U6002	26 Thomas Russell Park, Downpatrick	Remove Accessible Parking Bay.	Planned 23/24
U6280	College Gardens, Newry	Accessible Parking Bay x 2.	Planned 23/24
U6281	Parkhead Crescent, Newry	Accessible Parking Bay.	Planned 23/24
U6540	Rooney Park, Kilkeel	Accessible Parking Bay.	Planned 23/24

Accessible Parking Bays – General

Individual Accessible Parking Bay applications will be assessed before the completion of the necessary legislative process. Successful applications are required to be notified in local newspapers offering the opportunity for the public to submit their views.

Any objections must be fully considered before the application can progress to the Legislative Stage. Due to the processes involved, approved applications are required to be grouped and processed in batches on two or maybe three occasions during the year.

Deillumination of signs

The Department is continuing to develop a programme of replacing internally illuminated bollards with retroreflective boards, as resources permit, thus helping to reduce energy costs.

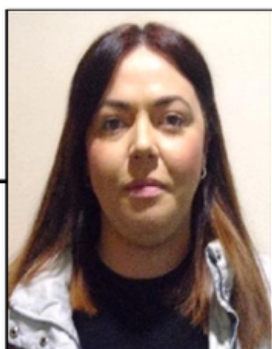
Legislation

All proposals to introduce or amend legislation are subject to successful completion of the necessary processes. This includes Accessible Parking Bays, Speed Limits, Traffic Regulation Orders (such as one-way), Parking and waiting restrictions (such as yellow lines) etc. A notice of intention of proposals is published in local papers which offers the opportunity for the public to submit their views on the proposals. Objections, when received, must be fully considered and addressed before any scheme can be taken forward for implementation.

SECTION 3 - NETWORK MAINTENANCE

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EXPLANATION OF MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Resurfacing and Strengthening

Roads generally fail by cracking and rutting. They usually do not fail suddenly, but gradually deteriorate due to the impact of traffic, age and weathering. Wear normally appears as either excessive permanent deformation of the whole or part of the carriageway structure or is associated with the cracking of the bituminous layers.

Roads are normally designed for an operational life of 20 years. During this period and beyond, there is a need for the highway authority to intervene at times to either treat or replace the top layer of bituminous material known as the "surface course" or to provide additional depth to preserve the underlying structure of the road and extend its life.

Resurfacing is the application of a layer of this mixed material of 40mm minimum thickness. It strengthens the road, seals it against the ingress of water, and improves skidding resistance and riding quality.

Surface course Bitumen Macadam (Bitmac) has an expected life of 7-12 years which can be extended by subsequent surface dressing. Bitmac is a more flexible material than Asphalt and more suitable for the deformation and movement associated with weaker underlying ground conditions.

Asphalt resurfacing is more appropriate to heavily trafficked roads and junctions having a robust roadbase. It is more expensive and has a longer expected life of 15-20 years.

Resurfacing of existing roads can usually be carried out on top of the existing surface (overlay) but where drainage or kerb levels or bridge heights are restricted the existing surface may need to be removed before the resurfacing takes place.

Surface Dressing

This process involves spraying a bitumen emulsion binder onto the existing road surface, followed by a layer of stone chippings, which is then rolled. This seals the road preventing ingress of water thus extending the life expectancy of the road and also helps to improve the skid resistance on the surface.

Drainage Works

The quick and effective drainage of surface water from the carriageway contributes significantly to road safety and helps to prevent damage to the road itself. Improvement works carried out include the upgrading of the existing drainage facilities to ensure effective dispersal of surface water and prevent as far as possible the occurrence of standing water or flooding

of the road. In many cases the provision of new drainage facilities have to be undertaken including the installation of road gullies, pipes and manholes leading to a suitable discharge point.

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting is carried out for road safety reasons rather than for amenity purposes. The Department's grass cutting policy has evolved to focus on protecting wildlife and promoting biodiversity when managing roadside verges. A single swathe will be cut along the verges on the strategic road network twice per year. Other areas that are needed for road safety purpose, such as sightlines at junctions, will also be cut at least twice each year with additional cuts as and when needed. A similar approach will be introduced on heavier trafficked rural roads and on lighter trafficked rural roads, one cut will be carried out late in the growing season.

Gully Emptying

In 2022/23 as in the previous year, the Department currently aims to maintain the level of service and inspect and clean, where necessary, all gullies once annually. Open outlets are also cleaned once per year.

Rural Roads Fund

In 2023/24, approximately £10m has been allocated to a Roads Recovery Fund from the structural maintenance budget specifically designed to address the roads which have been worst affected by recent under investment. £8m of this investment is being targeted towards rural roads. We will use this fund to carry out short lengths of resurfacing rather than repairing a large number of individual potholes in problem areas. Section Engineers, and their staff, across the Division are identifying the worst locations for inclusion on our works programmes. This work will reduce the number of potholes across the network and help prevent additional defects from forming.

Defects

Section Office staff regularly inspect the local network for actionable defects in accordance with the Road Maintenance Guidelines. These guidelines classify the local roads according to traffic volume and establish corresponding deadlines for the repair of any defects identified. Also, in an effort to maximise our effectiveness in delivering key road maintenance functions, we ask that members of the public and elected representatives who have access to the internet to please report road defects via the DfI online reporting facility provided by NI Direct; <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>. Alternatively, faults that are considered to be an emergency can be reported by telephone as shown on Page 58.

Street Works**TABLE 17: Street Works by Utility companies**

Number of Notifications in Southern Division	Number of Notifications in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Number of Inspections Carried Out.	Percentage of those inspected that were unsatisfactory
25,765	9,488	2,467	29 %

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE COMPLETED WORKS 2022 – 2023**Completed Surfacing****TABLE 18: Resurfacing – Trunk Road Network completed**

Total length completed
2.753 Km

TABLE 19: Resurfacing – Trunk Road Network locations

Road Number	Road Name
A0007	Crossgar Road, Saintfield
A0024	Main Street, Clough
A0028	Abbey Way, Newry
A0028	Trevor Hill, Newry

TABLE 20: Resurfacing – Remaining Road Network completed

Total length completed
12.113 km

TABLE 21: Resurfacing – Remaining Road Network locations

Road Number	Road Name
A0021	Ballynahinch Road, Saintfield
A0022	Comber Road, Killyleagh
A0025	Newry Road, Newtownhamilton
B0001	Downpatrick Road, Ardglass
B0025	Rostrevor Road, Hilltown
B0025	Kilbroney Road, Rostrevor
B0030	Longfield Road, Mullaghbawn
B0030	Longfield Road, Lislea (at Calmor View)
B0175	Ballylough Road, Castlewellan
B0175	Drumaroad Hill, Ballynahinch
B0176	Downpatrick Road, Killough

Road Number	Road Name
C0278	Loughinisland Village
C0333	Boat Street, Newry
C0339	Turmore Road, Newry
C0365	Greencastle Street, Kilkeel
U6285	The Glen, Newry
U6287	Cloughoge Heights, Newry
U6284	St. Colman’s Park, Newry
U6289	Quay Street and Cronin Park, Newry
U6292	Windmill Road, Newry

Completed Resurfacing Schemes



Downpatrick Road, Ardglass



Ballylough Road, Castlewellan



Drumaroad Hill, Ballynahinch

TABLE 22: Surface Dressing completed

Total length completed
242 Km

TABLE 23: Surface Dressing locations

Road Number	Road Name
B0006	Station Road, Saintfield
B0006	Killyleagh Road, Darragh Cross

Road Number	Road Name
B0006	Manse Road, Derryboye
B0006	Clealough Road, Killyleagh
B0007	Ballytrim Road, Killyleagh
B0007	Killyleagh Road, Crossgar
B0027	Kilkeel Road, Hilltown
B0135	Freeduff Road, Cullyhanna
B0180	Bryansford Road, Hilltown
B0180	Old Road, Dundrum
C0219	Cottage Road, Killeen
C0220	Finnegans Road, Jonesborough
C0223	Slatequarry Road, Cullyhanna
C0224	Shean Road, Forkhill
C0285	Bonecastle Road, Downpatrick
C0287	Ballyrolly Road, Clough
C0288	Buckshead Road, Loughinisland
C0289	Drumcullen Road, Downpatrick
C0289	Creeghduff Road, Downpatrick
C0289	Farranfad Road, Downpatrick
C0289	Seaforde Road, Downpatrick.
C0313	Head Road, Kilkeel
C0314	Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel
C0316	Dunaval Road, Kilkeel
C0318	Tullyframe Road, Kilkeel
C0323	Slievenaboley Road, Leitrim
C0323	Dromara Road, Leitrim
C0323	Leitrim Road, Castlewellan
C0331	Ballydoo Road, Hilltown
C0377	Old Road, Dundrum
U0038	Kilmegan Road, Castlewellan

Road Number	Road Name
U0061	Drumboy Road, Ballynahinch
U0110	Dunanew Road, Loughinisland
U0133	Tanaghmore Road, Loughinisland
U0134	Cottage Road, Seaforde
U0135	Ardilea Road, Clough.
U0141	Moneylane Road, Dundrum
U0142	Ballybannon Road, Castlewellan
U0143	Priest's Road, Castlewellan
U0172	Nutgrove Road, Loughinisland
U0174	Scribb Road, Ballynahinch
U0175	Shanbally Road, Ballynahinch
U0176	Srumuclaw Road, Ballynahinch
U0177	Loughquarter Road, Downpatrick
U0178	Woodgrange Road, Downpatrick
U0206	Flush Road, Maghera
U0208	Dundrine Road, Castlewellan
U0241	Point Road, Ballykinler
U0259	Old Course Road, Downpatrick
U0302	Bay Road, Ballykinler
U0307	Bonecastle Road, Downpatrick
U0307	Lake Road, Downpatrick
U0308	Ballykeel Road, Downpatrick
U0309	Tobercorran Road, Downpatrick
U0310	Old Carricknab Road, Downpatrick
U0311	Scollogs Hill Road, Downpatrick
U0311	Corbally Road, Downpatrick
U0312	Orchard Road, Downpatrick
U0314	Corbally Road, Downpatrick
U0316	Carricknab Road, Downpatrick

Road Number	Road Name
U0328	Derryboye Road, Derryboye
U0346	Shore Road, Killyleagh
U0379	Ringhaddy Road, Killyleagh
U0388	Martinpoole Road, Ballynahinch
U1109	Drumgooland Road, Loughinisland
U1111	Creaghduff Road, Killyleagh
U1112	Kennel Road, Seaforde
U1174	Annadorn Road, Downpatrick
U1177	Ballydonnety Road, Downpatrick
U1313	Castleskreen Road, Downpatrick
U4165	Dree Hill Road, Finnis
U5031	Tullyhappy Lane, Lissummon
U5036	Keadybeg Road, Whitecross
U5044	Derrywilligan Road, Bessbrook
U5065	Aghincurk Road, Newtownhamilton
U5095	Ninemile Road, Newtownhamilton
U5173	Macullagh Road, Newtownhamilton
U5179	Glen Road, Altnamackin
U5216	Garveys Road, Cullyhanna
U5233	Barr Road, Belleek
U5246	Calmor View, Lislea
U5261	Ballynaleck Road, Camlough
U5281	Sturgan Road, Camlough
U5301	Ballynarea Road, Cullyhanna
U5319	Blackrock Road, Crossmaglen
U5331	Clarkes Road, Killeen
U5334	Low Road, Killeavy
U5345	Lower Newtown Road, Killeen
U5363	Cashel Road, Silverbridge

Road Number	Road Name
U5376	Cregganduff Road, Cullyhanna
U5392	Lower Molley Road, Jonesborough
U5433	Captains Road, Forkhill
U5435	Tievecrom Road, Forkhill
U5436	Ballynamadda Road, Dromintee
U5457	Liscalgot Road, Crossmaglen
U5476	Annaghad Road, Cullaville
U6017	Curley Hill, Milltown
U6086	Kinghill Road, Hilltown
U6095	Clonduff Road, Hilltown
U6101	Sandy Road, Shinn
U6102	Cabragh Road, Mayobridge
U6109	Cross Road, Hilltown
U6111	Ballygorian Road, Hilltown
U6149	Aughnagon Road and Derryleckagh Road, Burren
U6163	Ryanstown Road, Mayobridge
U6185	Aughnagon Road, Newry
U6187	Milltown Hill, Burren
U6192	Greenan Lough Road, Ballyholland
U6209	Billys Road, Ballyholland
U6210	Ballinran Road, Kilkeel
U6211	Leitrim Road, Kilkeel
U6246	Brackenagh West Road, Kilkeel
U6255	Belmont Road, Kilkeel

TABLE 24: Roads Recovery completed

Total length completed
18.8 Km

TABLE 25: Roads Recovery locations

Road No	Road Name, Location
B0008	Castlewellan Road, Hilltown
B0008	Hilltown Road, Mayobridge
B0008	Hilltown Road, Newry
C0279	Ballycreen Road, Ballynahinch
C0279	Ballydyan Road, Saintfield
C0283	Crew Road, Ardglass
C0295	Creevytenant Road, Ballynahinch
C0295	Middle Road, Ballynahinch
C0304	Wateresk Road, Maghera
C0312	Slievenaman Road, Kilcoo
C0332	Clonallen Road, Warrenpoint
C0370	Ballylone Road, Saintfield
U0038	Kilmegan Road, Dundrum
U0107	Drumnaconnagher Road, Ballynahinch
U0112	Brae Road, Ballynahinch
U0131	Drumaroad Hill, Drumaroad
U0141	Moneylane Road, Dundrum
U0202	Trassey Road, Bryansford
U0225	Ardagh Road, Kilcoo
U0225	Tullynasoo Road, Castlewellan
U0235	Ballydock Road, Downpatrick
U0251	Struell Wells Road, Downpatrick
U0347	Limetree, Killyleagh
U0367	Old Saintfield Road, Crossgar

Road No	Road Name, Location
U0384	Drumnaconnell Road, Saintfield
U1113	The Square, Clough
U5030	Lissummon Church Road, Jerrettspass
U5060	Scotchmill Road, Glenanne (2 stretches)
U5071	McRorys Road, Newtownhamilton
U5087	Carrickananny Road, Belleek
U5103	Dungormley Road, Newtownhamilton
U5109	Off Barrons Hill, Bessbrook
U5128	Hughes Lane, Belleek
U5150	Carrowbane Road, Bessbrook
U5212	Finiskin Road, Cullyhanna
U5237	Courtney Road, Belleek
U5255	Tullyvallen West Road, Newtownhamilton (3 locations)
U5278	Bearna Park, Meigh
U5286	Off Flagstaff Road, Newry
U5324	Brogies Road, Killeavey
U5326	Barracric Road, Killeavey
U5339	Park View, Newry
U5370	Conway Park Mullaghbawn
U5397	Dernaroy Road, Jonesborough
U5449	Bay View, Jonesborough
U5501	Rathole Lane, Newtownhamilton
U5510	Eshwary Road, Bessbrook
U5651	St. Malachys Park, Camlough
U5655	Millvale Park, Bessbrook
U6001	Bishop's Brae Avenue, Downpatrick
U6009	Struell Road, Downpatrick
U6082	Lisnamulligan, Hilltown
U6104	Ryan Road, Mayobridge (2 locations)

Road No	Road Name, Location
U6200	Sabbath Hill, Ballymartin
U6210	Ballinran Road, Kilkeel
U6245	Ballyveaghbeg Road, Annlong
U6281	Nursery Drive, Newry
U6291	Commons School Road, Newry
U6350	Fegan Gardens, Hilltown
U6400	Rademon Court, Crossgar
U6400	William Street, Crossgar
U6501	Greenpark Villas, Rostrevor
U6700	Bayview Drive, Ardglass
U6700	Meadowlands, Downpatrick
U6700	Seaview, Killyleagh
U6700	White Rock Drive, Ardglass
U6800	Ardfern, Downpatrick

Completed Footway Resurfacing

TABLE 26: Footway Resurfacing completed

Total length completed
11.3 Km

TABLE 27: Footway Resurfacing locations

Road Number	Road Name
A0025	Newtown Road, Newtownhamilton
B0007	Shrigley Road, Killyleagh
B0025	Rathfriland Road, Newry
B0025	Rostrevor Road, Rostrevor
B0030	Newtown Road, Camlough
B0134	Tullyah Road, Whitecross
F0637	Dromara Road, Dundrum
F6011	Model Farm, Downpatrick
U0347	Benowen, Killyleagh
U0347	Inishvoe, Killyleagh
U0347	Inisbeg, Killyleagh
U5339	Park View, Newtowncloughoge
U5650	Ardaveen Park, Bessbrook
U5654	Woodside Park, Bessbrook
U5655	Millvale Park, Bessbrook
U6204	Ballaghbeg Park, Newcastle
U6230	Moneydarragh Road, Kilkeel
U6281	Michael Mallin Park, Newry
U6281	Nursery Drive, Newry
U6285	Brannock Close, Newry
U6285	Hawthorne Hill, Newry
U6292	Greenfield Park, Newry
U6300	Lislane Court, Saintfield

Road Number	Road Name
U6300	Lislane Drive, Saintfield
U6401	Lower Dromore Road, Warrenpoint
U6402	Rossmara Park, Warrenpoint
U6540	Willow Cove, Kilkeel
U7065	Stream Street, Downpatrick

Completed Drainage Maintenance Works**TABLE 28: Drainage completed locations**

Road Number	Road Name
A0002	Newry Street, Crossmaglen
A0002	South Promenade, Newcastle
A0002	Strangford Road, Ardglass
A0024	Church Street, Ballynahinch
A0025	Camlough Road, Camlough
A0025	Newry Road, Camlough
A0027	Tandragee Road, Jerretzpass
A0028	Trevor Hill, Newry
A0028	Belfast Road, Newry
A0050	Castlewellan Road, Ballyward
B0002	Dromore Road, Ballynahinch
B0007	Upper Dromore Road, Warrenpoint
B0007	Drumlough Road, Rathfriland
B0007	Crossgar Road, Ballynahinch
B0008	Castlewellan Road, Hilltown
B0008	Newry Road, Newry
B0079	Dominic Street, Newry
B0134	Tullyah Road, Camlough
B0134	Mountain Road, Lislea
B0135	Cullyhanna Road, Newtownhamilton
B0176	Downpatrick Road, Killough
B0180	Carnacavill Road, Maghera
C0200 / B0135	Kiltybane Road / Freeduff Road, Crossmaglen
C0200 / U5230	Annaghmare Road / Creenkill Road, Cullyhanna
C0213	Ballymoyer Road, Newtownhamilton
C0213	Ballymoyer Road, Newtownhamilton
C0215	Drumbanagher Wall, Jerretzpass

Road Number	Road Name
C0217	Lower Foughill Road, Jonesborough
C0219 / B0079 / U5286	Flagstaff Road / Fathom Line / Flagstaff Hill, Newry
C0219 / U0529 / U5327	Cottage Road / Killeen School Road / Upper Fathom Road, Killeen
C0220	Finnegans Road, Jonesborough
C0224	Shean Road, Forkhill
C0287	Commons Road, Ballykinler.
C0333	Chapel Road, Newry
C0335	Ardarragh Road, Newry
U0005	Burrenbridge Road, Castlewellan
U0154	Ballywillwill Road, Clonvarnaghan
U0251	Struell Wells Road, Downpatrick
U0329	Castlerainey Road, Downpatrick
U0389	Bellfield, Castlewellan
U1208	Ballytrustan Road, Downpatrick
U5011	Tunnel Road, Jerretzpass
U5019	Ashtree Hill, Jerretzpass
U5035	Creggan Road, Whitecross
U5047	Lisnalee Road / Old Armagh Road, Lissummon
U5056	Ballintate Road, Whitecross
U5076	Crabtree Hill, Bessbrook
U5076	Crabtree Hill, Bessbrook
U5082	Lurgana Road, Whitecross
U5110	Eshwary Road, Camlough
U5140	Monaghan Road, Newtownhamilton
U5143	Old Road, Newtownhamilton
U5150	Carrowbane Road, Camlough
U5160	Carnbane Road, Newry
U5191	Camlough Mountain Road, Camlough

Road Number	Road Name
U5197	Seafin Road, Killeavy
U5198	Seavers Road, Killeavy
U5199	Ayallogue Road, Killeavy
U5199	Ayallogue Road, Killeavy
U5200 / U5278	Green Road / Bernagh Park, Meigh
U5202	Carn Road, Killeavy
U5208	Glenmore Road, Mullaghbawn
U5233	Barr Road, Belleek
U5255	Tullyvallen Road West, Newtownhamilton
U5260	Horseshoe Lane, Camlough
U5261	Ballynalack Road, Camlough
U5276	Forest Road, Forkhill
U5291	Ferryhill Road, Killeen
U5294	Killeen School Road, Killeen
U5302	Cargie Road, Cullyhanna
U5308	Kiltybane Road, Cullyhanna
U5383	Lake Road, Cullyhanna
U5390	Molly Road, Jonesborough
U5405	Donaldsons Road, Crossmaglen
U5412 / A0029	Old Bog Road / New Road, Forkhill
U5436	Ballynamadda Road, Dromintee
U5437	Carrickbroad Road, Dromintee
U5457	Liscalgot Road, Crossmaglen
U5654	Maginn Park, Bessbrook
U6001	Bishop's Brae Avenue, Downpatrick.
U6008	Donard View Crescent, Downpatrick.
U6018	Curley Road, Shinn
U6019	Brae Road, Milltown
U6051	Sheepbridge Road, Glen

Road Number	Road Name
U6067	Greenhill Road, Barnmeen
U6082	Lisnamulligan Road, Rathfriland
U6118	Sandy Road, Sheeptown
U6140	Yellow Road, Hilltown
U6171	Carrick Road, Burren
U6206	Golf Links Road, Newcastle
U6210	Ballinran Road, Ballymartin
U6242	Leestone Road, Kilkeel
U6280	Clanrye Park, Newry
U6285	Watson's Road, Newry
U6290	Courtney Hill, Newry
U6290	Ballyholland Road, Ballyholland
U6294	Sugarhouse Quay, Newry

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROPOSED WORKS 2023 – 2024**Proposed Surfacing****TABLE 29: Resurfacing – Trunk Road Network planned**

Total length proposed
1.67 Km

TABLE 30: RESURFACING – Trunk Road Network locations

Road Number	Road Name
A0024	Drumaness Road, Ballynahinch
A0028	Carnbane Way, Newry

TABLE 31: Resurfacing – Remaining Road Network planned

Total length proposed
9.47 Km

TABLE 32: Resurfacing – Remaining Road Network locations

Road Number	Road Name
A0002	Shore Road, Strangford
A0002	Quay Street, Ardglass
A0024	Main Street, Clough
A0025	Camlough Road, Camlough (at St. Paul's School)
B0007	Rathfriland Road, Dromara
C0333	Chapel Road, Newry (at St. Mary's School)
C0285	Bonecastle Road, Downpatrick
U5656	John F Kennedy Park, Bessbrook
U6280 / U6282 / B0079 / B0029	Catherine Street / Lower Catherine Street / Edward Street / Corry Square, Newry

Resurfacing Scheme



Quay Street, Ardglass – Resurfacing scheme included in the programme for 2023/24 has been completed.

TABLE 33: Surface Dressing planned

Total length proposed
240 Km

TABLE 34: Surface Dressing locations

Road Number	Road Name
B0007	Rathfriland Road, Dromara
B0079	Fathom Line, Newry
C0174	Convent Hill, Bessbrook
C0204	Carrickgollogly Road, Belleek
C0221	Shaughan Road, Belleek
C0223	Lisleitrim Road, Cullyhanna
C0283	Crew Road, Ardglass
C0287	Forde Road, Ballykinler
C0293	Dunmore Road, Ballynahinch
C0295	Creevytenant Road, Ballynahinch
C0295	Middle Road, Ballynahinch
C0304	Wateresk Road, Maghera
C0315	Church Road, Ballymartin
C0321	Sandbank Road, Hilltown

Road Number	Road Name
C0330	Cross Road, Hilltown
C0330	Leode Road, Hilltown
C0332	Clonallon Road, Warrenpoint
C0366	Rocks Road, Ballyhoran
U0038	Kilmegan Road, Castlewellan
U0111	Glassdrummond Road, Ballynahinch
U0111	Blacks Lane, Ballynahinch
U0112	Brae Road, Ballynahinch
U0126	Rosemount Road, Ballynahinch
U0128	Guinness Road, Ballynahinch
U0129	Dunmore Road, Ballynahinch
U0139	Manse Road, Seaforde
U0141	Moneylane Road, Dundrum
U0144	Aughlisnafin Road, Castlewellan
U0146	Rocks Chapel Road, Downpatrick
U0146	Craig Road, Downpatrick
U0160	Drumbuck Road, Castlewellan
U0165	Rann Road, Downpatrick
U0166	Inch Abbey Road, Downpatrick
U0166	Cotterhill Road, Downpatrick
U0179	Horners Road, Ballynahinch
U0202	Trassey Road, Bryansford
U0229	Tullybrannigan Road, Newcastle
U0230	Ballysallagh Road, Downpatrick
U0237	Bishopscourt Road, Downpatrick
U0238	Ballywooden Road, Downpatrick
U0239	Kilclief Road, Kilclief
U0240	Shore Road, Ballyhoran
U0240	Killard Road, Ballyhoran

Road Number	Road Name
U0245	Grange Road, Downpatrick
U0245	Quarter Road, Downpatrick
U0246	Ballyclander Road, Downpatrick
U0252	Ballysallagh Road, Downpatrick
U0329	Templeburn Road, Raffery
U0351	Greystown Road, Downpatrick
U0353	Turmennan Road, Downpatrick
U0354	Craig Road, Saintfield
U0372	Carsonstown Road, Saintfield
U0383	Cherryhill Road, Ballynahinch
U0386	Broomhill Road, Ballynahinch
U1211	Loughkeelan Road, Downpatrick
U1212	Whitehills Road, Downpatrick
U1215	Blackscausway Road, Strangford
U1219	Sheepland Road, Ardglass
U1227	Dillon Road, Downpatrick
U2213	Drumroe Road, Ballycruttle
U2214	Glebe Road, Downpatrick
U4165	Drin Road, Finnis
U4166	Dree Hill, Finnis
U4216	Legananny Road, Castlewellan
U5006	Lesh Lane, Lissummon
U5031	Tullyherron Road, Whitecross
U5069	Coiners Lane, Newtownhamilton
U5191	Camlough Mountain Road, Newry
U5201	Carn Road, Killeavy
U5218	Ummericam Road, Silverbridge
U5266	Ballard Road, Lislea
U5269	Old Road, Camlough

Road Number	Road Name
U5275	Mountain Road, Dromintee
U5276	Forest Road, Forkhill
U5277	Cloughinney Road, Forkhill
U5286	Flagstaff Hill, Newry
U5304	Forge Road, Cullyhanna
U5313	Bog Road, Cullyhanna
U5324	Brogies Road, Cloughoge
U5326	Barracric Road, Cloughoge
U5364	Lough Road, Silverbridge
U5369	Back Road, Mullaghbawn
U5397	Dernaroy Road, Dromintee
U5411	Glendesha Road, Mullaghbawn
U5418	O'Callaghan's Road, Silverbridge
U5420	Carnally Road, Silverbridge
U5426	Cortreasla Road, Ballsmill
U5461	Coolderry Road, Crossmaglen
U5463	Leeter Road, Silverbridge
U5470	Lisseraw Road, Crossmaglen
U5501	Rathole Lane, Newtownhamilton
U6007	Ballyblough Road, Glenn
U6013	Ardkeeragh Road, Rathfriland
U6018	Curley Road, Rathfriland
U6030	Gransha Road, Rathfriland
U6048	Barr Hill, Glenn
U6058	Tamary Road, Hilltown
U6104	Ryan Road, Mayobridge
U6118	Sandy Road, Sheeptown
U6135	Ballymaderfy Road, Kilkeel
U6173	Lurgancanty Road, Burren

Road Number	Road Name
U6174	Clontifleece School Road, Burren
U6179	Donaghaguy Road, Burren
U6215	Aughnahooey Road, Kilkeel
U6216	Aughnaloopey Road, Kilkeel
U6250	Council Road, Kilkeel
U6291	Commons School Road, Ballyholland
U6291	Fort Hill Road, Newry
U6291	Moor Hill Road, Newry
U6405	Greys Back Lane, Warrenpoint

TABLE 35: Roads Recovery planned

Total length completed
12 Km

TABLE 36: Roads Recovery locations

Road Number	Road Name, Location
C0215	Cullentragh Road, Jerrettspass
C0216	Jockeys Brae, Jerrettspass
C0332	Clonallan Road, Burren
C0337	Corgary Road, Newry
U0116	Old Park Road, Drumaness
U0120	Craighill Lane, Ballynahinch
U0160	Drumbuck Road, Castlewellan
U0168	Raleigh Road, Ballynahinch
U0529	Glenview Road, Ballynahinch
U1216	Audleystown Road, Strangford
U4217	Ribadoo Road, Castlewellan
U5015	Kilrea Road, Jerrettspass
U5019	Ashtree Hill, Jerrettspass
U5215	Polkone Road, Cullyhanna

Road Number	Road Name, Location
U5216	Garveys Road, Cullyhanna
U5236	Duburren Road, Belleek
U5237	Courtney Road, Belleek
U5238	Garvagh Road, Belleek
U5480	Malachy Conlon Park, Cullaville
U5655	Millvale Park, Bessbrook (2 locations)
U6009	Abbeyview Road, Crossgar
U6017	Shinn Forth Road, Newry
U6083	Mill Road, Hilltown
U6085	Ballykeel Road, Kilcoo
U6300	Listooder Road, Saintfield
U6351	Spelga Park, Hilltown
U6401	Clermont Gardens, Warrenpoint
U6698	St Michael's, Ballyhornan
C0215	Cullentragh Road, Jerrettspass

Proposed Footway Resurfacing

TABLE 37: Footway Resurfacing planned

Total length proposed
6.7 Km

TABLE 38: Footway Resurfacing locations

Road Number	Road Name
B0002	Annacloy Road, Teconnaught
F0693	Osbourne Drive, Shrigley
U6009	Knochree, Downpatrick
U6200	Sunningdale Drive, Newcastle
U6200	Sunningdale Park, Newcastle

Proposed Drainage Works

TABLE 39: Drainage planned locations

Road Number	Road Name
A0024	Belfast Road, Ballynahinch
C0285	Old Course Road, Downpatrick
C0286	Ballynoe Road, Downpatrick
C0293	Carnreagh Road, Castlewellan
C0325	Lacken Road, Castlewellan
U0146	Rock's Chapel Road, Downpatrick
U0165	Rann Road, Annacloy
U6800	Donard View Crescent, Downpatrick

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE COMPLETED WORKS 2022 – 2023**Grass Cutting**

The grass verges on all rural roads were cut twice, with additional cutting carried out at sightlines as required.

TABLE 40: Grass cutting completed

Total Length cut
2,870 Km

Defects

Section Office staff regularly inspect the local network for actionable defects in accordance with the Road Maintenance Guidelines. These guidelines classify the local roads according to traffic volume and establish corresponding deadlines for the repair of any defects identified.

TABLE 41: Defects details

Description	Detail
Total priority defects recorded	18,073
Total repaired within specified timescales	15,866

Public Liability Claims**TABLE 42: Public Liability Claims details**

Description	Detail
Total claims received	562
- vehicular damage	479
- personal injury	71
- property damage	12
Total claims settled	347
Total claims rejected	170

Please note that statistics above for Total Claims settled are claims where compensation was paid, and statistics for total claims rejected are for claims where no compensation was paid.

MAINTENANCE OF STRUCTURES

Highway Structures include bridges, sign gantries and retaining walls. All bridges must be capable of carrying 40 tonne vehicles and this requirement has led to the ongoing assessment of bridges in the area.

Structures Section manages the 1,275 bridges and culverts with a span of 1.8m and greater within the Division, 552 of which are in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area. Smaller structures are managed by the local Section Office.

Structural Maintenance Schemes Completed Works 2022 – 2023

TABLE 43: Structures completed

Location	Scheme Description
Derryboye Road, Crossgar	Carriageway stabilisation.
Quoile Bridge, Downpatrick	Parapet repairs. (2 schemes completed during 22/23)
Maphoner Road, Mullaghbawn	Parapet repairs.
Skerriff Bridge, Skerriff Road, Cullyhanna	Parapet repairs.
Downshire Bridge, Newcastle Road, Dundrum	Parapet upgrade.
Coole Fuels Retaining Wall, Ballynaclosa Road, Silverbridge	Ongoing design works nearing completion.

Vehicle Restraint Systems Upgrade Completed Works 2022 – 2023

TABLE 44: Vehicle Restraint Systems Upgrade completed

Location
Downshire Bridge, Newcastle Road, Dundrum

Structural Maintenance Schemes Planned Works 2023 – 2024

TABLE 45: Structures – planned

Location	Scheme Description
Rathfriland Road, Dromara,	Bells Bridge - parapet repairs.
Aghnicurk Road, Newtownhamilton,	Invert repairs.
Drumalt Road, Finiskin, Cullyhanna	Invert repairs.

Location	Scheme Description
Longstone Hill, Rathfriland (2 locations)	Invert repairs & pressure grouting.
Moyadd Road, Kilkeel	Parapet repairs.
Kilkeel Road, Hilltown	Parapet repairs.
Quoile Bridge, Killyleagh Road, Downpatrick,	Parapet repairs.

Vehicle Restraint Systems Upgrade Planned Works 2023 – 2024

TABLE 46: Vehicle Restraint Systems Upgrade planned

Location
Station Road, Killough
Newcastle Road, Dundrum (at Old Dundrum Road)
Newcastle Road, Dundrum
Ardglass Road, Downpatrick
Chapel Road, Newry

LANDS SECTION

The DfI Lands Team manage the Divisions lands assets and are responsible for the acquisition of land required for road improvement schemes. The work also involves processing abandonments of land, disposal of land assets that are no longer required and dealing with a range of land queries.

Abandonments

Abandonments of public rights-of-way such as sections of adopted roads and footways are procedures separate from the planning process. These involve a public consultation exercise which informs DfI Roads' decision.

TABLE 47: Abandonments and Stopping Orders

Abandonment Orders
There were no Abandonment Orders in Financial year 2022/23.
Stopping-Up Orders
There were no Stopping Orders in Financial year 2022/23.

WINTER SERVICE

TABLE 48: Winter Service - dates of operations

Description	Start date	Completion date
Official winter maintenance period 2022-2023	17 October 2022	2 April 2023
Salting Operations in this period	82	

TABLE 49: Winter Service - details of operations

Description	Details
Depot location in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area	Newry Depot, Springhill Road, Carnbane Industrial Estate Newry Castlenavan Depot, Newcastle Road, Seaforde
Number of gritters used during 1 gritting action	12
Number of personnel involved in gritting operation in Southern Division	135
Length of roads salted in Council area	833 km
Total volume of salt used during 2022-2023 winter season in Southern Division.	18,397 tonnes



SECTION 4 – MAJOR PROJECTS SOUTH

Major Projects Team South Manager (Acting) Brian McClelland

Brian is supported by the following staff:



Neville Dynes

Major Projects Team South
Marlborough House
Central Way
Craigavon
BT641AD

Tel: 0300 200 7899

E-mail: southern.SRI@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk



Cyril (Sid) Stevenson

Major Projects Team South
Marlborough House
Central Way
Craigavon
BT641AD

Tel: 0300 200 7899

E-mail: southern.SRI@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

4.1 A24 Ballynahinch Bypass

The proposed A24 Ballynahinch Bypass aligns to the east of the town, from a new roundabout at the junction of the A24 Belfast Road and the A21 Saintfield Road to a new roundabout located at the existing junction of the B2 Downpatrick Road and the A24 Drumaness Road. A compact grade separated junction connects the B7 Crossgar Road with the proposed bypass. The 3.1km bypass, which was estimated in the range £40 - £50million, comprises of a single 2-lane carriageway bypass with widening to provide overtaking opportunities. A 'Park & Share' facility to accommodate 27 parking bays is proposed on the northern side of the scheme. The main objectives are to improve journey times, journey time reliability and safety. The bypass would provide a route for strategic traffic that would reduce traffic congestion on Ballynahinch and enhance the town centre environment.

The Direction Order for the A24 Ballynahinch Bypass was made on 16 July 2021. The statutory processes are now largely complete however, the Vesting Order for the scheme cannot be made until funding has been secured to deliver the project. Development work has been substantially concluded, including preparation of a draft business case.

In August 2023 the Department published a prioritised list of major road schemes that will continue to be progressed and all other schemes paused and their place on a future major works programme will be informed by emerging transport plans and a decision by a future Infrastructure Minister; this is available at: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/department-publishes-major-roads-prioritisation-programme>. Regrettably, the A24 Ballynahinch Bypass has currently been paused.

There are a number of reasons why the prioritisation of projects currently in the pipeline was necessary, including the challenging budgetary position and constrained resources (in terms of finance and staff) and, importantly, the Department's commitments under the Climate Change (NI) Act 2022.

Transport policies and plans are currently being reviewed and updated to align with these commitments and this work will help define what major transport infrastructure projects should be included within any future major roads programme. Due to financial and resourcing pressures the Department can only deliver those road projects where there are identified alternative funding streams such as Flagship and City and Growth Deal projects.

Additional scheme information is available at;

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/a24-ballynahinch-bypass-overview>



Image of Northern Junction at Saintfield Road

4.2 Newry Southern Relief Road

The NSRR is being developed to provide a strategic link between the A1/N1 Belfast to Dublin corridor and the A2 Warrenpoint Road, bypassing Newry City Centre. It is one of the three infrastructure projects being taken forward by the Department within the Belfast Region City Deal, which has allocated £93.4m to the project.

A preferred route for the Newry Southern Relief Road was announced in October 2018. The preferred route links the A2 Warrenpoint Road with the A1 Ellisholding Junction, starting at a new at-grade roundabout on the A2 Warrenpoint Road, along the frontage of Greenbank Industrial Estate, and crossing the Newry River and Newry Ship Canal, just to the south of Drumalane Quarry. The route then heads in a westerly direction via a climbing lane section up Fathom Mountain traversing under Flagstaff Road to another bridge crossing of the Belfast-Dublin Railway Line before terminating at the A1 Ellisholding Junction. This grade separated junction will be redesigned to include two new slip roads to accommodate traffic travelling to/from the south.

In March 2023, the Permanent Secretary for the Department agreed under the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2022, that a non-opening 50m fixed bridge is the Department's preferred option for Newry Ship Canal, which will form part of the Newry Southern Relief Road.

In August 2023 the Department published a prioritised list of major road schemes that will continue to be progressed, this is available at: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/department-publishes-major-roads-prioritisation-programme>

There are a number of reasons why the prioritisation of projects, currently in the pipeline, was necessary, including the challenging budgetary position and constrained resources (in terms of finance and staff) and, importantly, the Department's commitments under the Climate Change (NI) Act 2022.

The publication of the prioritised list of major road schemes, explains that development work on the Newry Southern Relief Road will continue to progress towards the next key decision regarding publication of draft Orders.

The current stage of the project involves developing the design of the road and preparing the draft Statutory Orders, along with an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Following publication of the draft Statutory Orders and the EIAR a formal period of consultation will take place. This consultation will provide an opportunity for anyone who wishes to express an opinion on the EIAR or to object to the making of the Orders. This is currently scheduled for Spring 2024.

Current engagement is ongoing with the Department for Communities (DfC) Heritage Environment Division (HED) for their consideration of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) which will inform the EIAR and consider the implications of the proposal on the Newry Ship Canal. Engagement with other stakeholders and landowners is also taking place.

Prior to completion of the final design stage the Department is currently planning a Community Information Event which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to view the emerging final scheme proposals for the NSRR. The Event will be held in Newry Leisure Centre and will include an un-staffed exhibition display from Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 October and will be staffed by DfI Officials for one day on Thursday 19 October 2023.

Additional scheme information is available at;

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/newry-southern-relief-road-overview>



Image of Ellisholding Road Junction at A1

SECTION 5 - STRANGFORD LOUGH FERRY SERVICE

Responsibility for the Strangford Ferry no longer falls under the remit of DfI Roads Southern Division, responsibility has transferred to the Departments Public Transport Operations Division.

General Level of Service

In general, the ferry service has operated smoothly throughout the period April 2022 to March 2023. Of a total of 22,773 scheduled sailings, 18 were cancelled due to fog, 30 sailings were cancelled due to staff unavailability and 8 sailings were lost as a result of mechanical and technical issues. This represented an overall reliability of 99.83% for the year.

During this period the ferry service also provided an additional 1269 off schedule sailings.

Revised Timetable

The ferry service continued during this period to operate an off-schedule service during the weekday morning peak to provide additional morning sailings between Portaferry and Strangford. This was introduced as a COVID-19 mitigation measure to enable provision of a passenger only sailing, since the removal of social distancing requirements has carried vehicles as normal. This off-schedule service is currently being affected by strike action.

Strangford and Portaferry Harbours

The marshalling system in Strangford continued to operate at weekends and on busy holidays from April to mid-September. This alleviated most of the congestion from the remainder of the village.



SECTION 6 - ENGAGING WITH DFI ROADS

Dealing with Correspondence / Public Interface

As you will be aware following a restructuring exercise the Department has adopted a new approach in relation to dealing with some queries. It is perhaps worth refreshing on this process and the background to it.

The Department lost a significant number of staff in 2015 through the Voluntary Exit Scheme which was implemented across the whole of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. As a result of this Divisions had to develop new staffing structures across all work areas to try to maintain an acceptable level of service.

One area of significant workload is dealing with correspondence. The Department, and in particular DfI Roads, receives a large volume of correspondence from the public and public representatives throughout the year. To give a sense of scale, Southern Division has in the past received over 19,000 items of correspondence in one year. Indeed, the level of correspondence has been increasing in recent years at a time when resources have been reducing which is adversely impacting on our ability to deliver key services and public safety responsibilities. Therefore, in an effort to maximise our effectiveness in delivering key road maintenance functions, we ask that members of the public and elected representatives who have access to the internet please report road defects via the DfI online reporting facility provided by NI Direct; <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>.

Alternatively, faults that are considered to be an emergency (during working hours) can be reported by telephone to 028 90 540540.

Section Offices will be opened to the public from 10am - 12noon with meetings outside of this able to be arranged by appointment also.

Emergency Out of Office Hours Assistance

We have a call centre to deal with calls outside normal office hours. DfI Roads personnel can be called upon to deal with emergencies such as flooding, obstructions such as fallen trees, and when requested by Emergency Services, in clearing up after road traffic collisions. Routine roads related matters are not dealt with by this service and should be raised with DfI Roads offices during normal working hours.

The Emergency out of Hours telephone number is: 0300 200 7899

Reports of Flooding can be directed to the Flooding Incident Line 0300 2000 100 (24 hours a day).

DfI Roads Contact Details

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area

Report a fault - (eg, street lights, pot holes, blocked gullies, etc)

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>

Maintenance – We have two section offices covering the district, one in Newry & Mourne and one in Down.

Newry and Mourne Section Office - NewryMourneandDownWest@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Down Section Office - NewryMourneandDownEast@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Traffic

Down - tninddownpatrick@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Newry and Mourne - tnindcraigavon@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

General

dfiroads.southern@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Street Lighting

streetlightingsouthern@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Strangford Ferry

StrangfordFerry@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Telephone

During working hours Emergencies: **Tel: 028 9054 0540**

Out-of-Hours Emergencies: **Tel: 0300 200 7899**

DfI Roads website

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>

TRAFFICWATCH website

www.trafficwatchni.com

Floodline Incident Line

The Flooding Incident Line is available 24 hours a day, every day. You can report flooding problems on roads or burst water mains and blocked drains. **Telephone: 0300 2000 100**

From the Transport and Road Asset Management Deputy Secretary
Mr Colin Woods

Marie Ward
 Chief Executive
 Newry, Mourne and Down Council

Via email: marie.ward@nmandd.org

Telephone: (028) 9054 7873
 Email: Colin.Woods@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
 Our reference:
 Date: Thursday, 21 September 2023

Dear Ms Ward,

DfI Transport & Roads Update to Newry, Mourne and Down Council

Ahead of the updates the Divisional Roads Managers will be providing to Councils, I'd like to offer some wider context, especially in relation to the Department's budgetary position and the impact that has on our work.

DfI's Financial Position and the impact on Roads Functions

The Department is managing a 14% reduction in its 2023-24 resource budget allocation when compared to 2022-23 on a like for like basis. Significant action has been taken to reduce spending across all areas, and fares and other charges have been increased to help sustain essential services. Having done all of that, the Department is still facing a large funding gap against its resource budget allocation.

In July 2023, the Department published on its website an Interim Consultation Report of the equality implications arising from a range of options on the possible reduction of services. This Report recognised the impact of these potential reductions to Winter Service provision, road maintenance and flood risk management to emergency levels only, and turning off streetlights, which would affect all road users and communities. It is important to note that these options are decisions which are not currently within the power of senior officials to take.

Due to the Department's budget position, we have had to take the decision to continue with a Limited Service on road maintenance activities such as defect repairs, like potholes, and gully emptying. At this stage it is planned that winter service will continue as before, though a large volume of vacancies and the impact of industrial action could place that service under additional strain.

The Department's 2023-24 Capital budget is also well below our requirement. The opening Capital budget for structural maintenance of the road network is £85m, which is welcomed but still falls well short of the £143 million required annually to maintain the road network in a reasonable condition. Budget has also been made available for things

like Local Transport Safety Measures, though our capacity is more limited than we may wish it to be. The constrained budget position also means that the Department is unable to fill posts becoming vacant through retirement or other departures; with over 400 vacancies in my Group alone you will appreciate how this impedes our ability to offer the level of services that we would wish across the full range of responsibilities.

The Strategic Direction for Transport

I am mindful of the need to develop our strategic and policy thinking to manage the impact of budget constraints and set out what the Department believes the future of transport should be. Later this year the Department hopes to publish a Transport Strategy for public consultation. It is an overarching framework which will inform the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services across Northern Ireland up to 2035.

While the historic focus has been on the how the network facilitates the movement of private cars, responding to the challenge of climate change and our new legal obligations to deliver net-zero by 2050 means that we need to think hard about how we view and engage with the transport network.

Through the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 the Assembly has set out a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, along with interim targets including at least a 48% reduction in net emissions by 2030. There is a legal requirement on all Northern Ireland departments to exercise their functions, as far as is possible, in a manner consistent with the achievement of the targets of the Act and carbon budgets set under it.

Given that transport is the second highest emitter of greenhouse gases, DfI and its partners have a major role in ensuring Northern Ireland is able to achieve the overall target. The rapid decarbonisation of transport represents the single greatest challenge facing the planning and management of our transport network since it developed into the modern network we recognise today. As such, the decarbonisation of transport is likely to be the single largest strategic driver for our work over the next decade. The Transport Strategy will aim to support this strategic direction for all involved in the transport sector. The scale and pace of the change necessary to reduce our transport emissions to the levels necessary should not be underestimated.

It will be crucial for the Department and local government to work together to deliver the aims of Transport Strategy. The emerging Transport Plans, which will link in with the development and timing of your Local Development Plan, are a key delivery mechanism. They will seek to apply the carbon and modal hierarchies in a pragmatic way to deliver proposals for a multimodal sustainable transport network across Northern Ireland that will support the development of local communities and economies. This approach will describe how active travel and improved public transport can retain and enhance the function of the transport network.

Development of Active Travel Infrastructure

The Climate Change Act states that, "*The Department for Infrastructure must develop sectoral plans for transport which set a minimum spend on active travel from the overall transport budgets of 10%*". This obligation is a significant increase in active travel spend and extensive efforts are being made to ensure that we scale up our delivery capacity

from a relatively small base. We must also fully understand the consequential impact on other areas of transport spend that may need to be reduced in order to provide the investment in Active Travel.

The Department is working closely with Councils to better understand their five-year Active Travel programme and developing an appropriate grant and support framework for the delivery of greenways. We have commissioned a Northern Ireland wide Active Travel Network Delivery plan which is due for consultation in 2024. When complete, this will provide a firm basis for the prioritisation of the delivery of high quality active travel infrastructure within, and connecting, our towns and cities. The plan will complement and take account of the Belfast Cycle Network Delivery Plan and the greenways network. Steps are currently being taken to ensure increased planning, design and delivery resource moving forward, including additional consultancy support capacity.

Strategic Asset Management Plan for the Road Network

All of this activity takes place in the context of the budget challenges that I have already described, as well as all of the other work that goes into managing an asset worth over £30Billion. The underinvestment in the road network over the past decade increases the need for a sound strategic approach to the allocation of resources, and the delivery of services.

The Department plans to consult with the wider public this year to gain views on a Strategic Assessment Management Plan for the Road Network Asset. The draft Plan aims to outline the key principles that will guide the work of the Department in the development of its maintenance and development functions at an operational level. Understanding our approach to managing the road network at a strategic level will complement other strategic transport plans, ensure we are thinking consistently about the key drivers for change, and inform the implementation of future transport planning decisions.

Hopefully, the document and subsequent consultation will generate comment on aspirations for a future road network, whilst balancing constrained resources, an expanding asset base, maintenance backlogs, and current levels of service delivery.

If it would be helpful in engaging with these matters, I would be very happy to accompany my colleague Mark McPeak when they present their annual report to the Council at the annual meeting, on Monday 30 October 2023, and to try and answer any additional questions that you may have.

Yours sincerely



COLIN WOODS