

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29 JUNE 2004

MONITORING OF PUBLIC UTILITY REINSTATEMENTS

Report By Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the performance of Public Utilities in reinstating road openings for the financial year 2003/04.
- 1.2 To inform the Committee of the status of the 2004 National Coring of Public Utilities exercise.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Whenever a Public Utility (or a contractor employed by them) digs up a public road they have to comply with the rules and regulations as described by the 'New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) 1991. This Act also defines the duties of the Roads Authority with regard to Public Utilities works and sets limits on the Roads Authority's powers to regulate and supervise Public Utilities works in the road.
- 2.2 There have been two previous National Coring (investigatory works) exercises to ascertain that Public Utilities are complying with specification reinstatement standards. The 'Roads Authorities & Utilities Committee (Scotland), (RAUCS) agreed to undertake a third exercise. This is programmed for this year, 2004.

EAC results from previous year's coring programme as follows:

2000/2001 36 No. Total Cores, 15 Failed
2001/2002 39 No. Total Cores, 16 Failed

This demonstrated little improvement in reinstatements.

3. AUDIT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ROAD OPENINGS

- 3.1 A check has been done on the sample Inspection process for the year 2003/04.

	Scottish Power	Scottish Water	British Telecom	Transco
No. of Inspections carried out	105	336	103	501
No. of Satisfactory Reinstatements	85	256	85	402
No. of failures notified.	20	80	18	99

4. ADDITIONAL CHECKS – CORING OF PU REINSTATEMENTS

4.1 Dumfries and Galloway are the lead Council for the co-ordination and issue of the coring contract in southwest Scotland. It is expected that the contract will be awarded by end June 2004 and that the coring works will, commence in July 2004 with a completion date by end September 2004. The results of the exercise are expected to be collated by end October 2004.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Roads Division's inspections of Public Utilities are governed by the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. (NRSWA 1991).

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The cost of sample inspections of reinstatements undertaken under the NRSWA 1991 is financed by the Public Utilities and is a continuing source of revenue for the Council.

6.2 The Roads & Transportation Division will fund from its Revenue Budget the administration and implementation of the coring programme as it relates to EAC, with the Public Utilities paying for the cost of any non-compliant reinstatements in accordance with Section 131 of the NRSWA 1991.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee note:

- i) the performance of Public Utilities in reinstating road openings for the financial year 2003/04.
- ii) the status of the 2004 National Coring of Public Utilities exercise.

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Executive Director of Development and Property Services
18 June 2004
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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