

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE: 13 MARCH 2002

MONITORING OF PUBLIC UTILITY REINSTATEMENTS

Report by Director of Development Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the performance of Public Utilities in reinstating road openings.

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.

3 AUDIT OF ROAD OPENINGS

- 3.1 A check has been done on the Inspection process for the quarter October to December 2001.

	Scottish Power	West of Scotland Water	British Telecom	Transco
No. of Inspections carried out	15	214	29	67
No. of Satisfactory Reinstatements	6	46	8	30
No. of failures notified.	9	168	21	37

- 3.2 It can be seen from the above table that the public utilities are still performing abysmally in relation to their reinstatements.

- 3.3 Meetings have been held with senior PU managers to stress the need for improvement and to determine a method for improving their operations to achieve this.

3.4 The Scottish Executive Consultation Document “Reducing Disruption from Utilities Road Works” may be the way forward.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.2 Section 131 of the NRSWA 1991 also empowers the Roads Division to carry out such investigatory works (e.g. coring) as appear to be necessary to ascertain that Utilities are complying with reinstatement specification standards.

The cost of these investigatory works is borne by the Roads Division. Only when a failure is found can the cost of the investigatory works be recovered.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee is requested to note the performance of Public Utilities in reinstating road openings.

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Director of Development Services

12 February 2002
SC/JMcR/YK

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on the contents of this report, please contact John McRobert, Roads & Transportation Division, on 01563 576310

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AGENDA