An overarching comment from North Ayrshire Council relates to the requirement for continued high levels of investment in infrastructure to assist with delivery of the Council's Regeneration Strategy – an essential component to deliver its key outcomes of addressing worklessness and reducing health inequalities.

The Council welcomes the increased investment in winter maintenance for the motorway and trunk road network, key to sustaining economic activity throughout the year but is disappointed to note the reduced funding for road improvements. This funding is key to one of North Ayrshire’s high priorities, upgrading of the A737, including the by-pass around Dalry. This development is an important component of the Council’s regeneration strategy; this was acknowledged in the STAG appraisal. A decision and start date for this project has been awaited for a number of years.

The continuing role of the Scottish Futures Trust is noted and we will continue to work pro-actively with the SFT as key major projects develop. Detail of the proposed Warm Homes Fund is awaited with interest.

Availability of sustainable housing continues to be a challenge in North Ayrshire, the reduced investment noted in the Spending Review is likely to slow down progress which has been achieved over the last few years, but we remain committed to a long term investment in new housing.

Our island communities welcome the Roads Equivalent Tariff to provide support to them especially the expected increase in visitors to the island, and hope that the reduced funding does not impact adversely on the Council area. We welcome the commitment to complete the pier and harbour works at Brodick and look forward to working with the ferry operator in this major development. It is hoped that there will be local benefits to the island’s construction workforce.

The Council has benefited in previous years from investment in sustainable travel and we have been successful in changing travel habits especially within our schools where 80% now have travel plans. However, continued investment in infrastructure is essential to maintain this progress, in particular continued development of cycle paths. Reduction in such development (either direct or via Sustrans or Cycling Scotland) would be disappointing.