

# **BLACK ISLE AND EASTER ROSS COMMITTEE**

## **BULLETIN ITEM**

**Subject:** **B9176 Struie Road Winter Maintenance 2025/26**

**Date:** **10 August 2026**

**Assistant Chief Executive:** **Place**

### **1 Purpose/Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This bulletin outlines the winter maintenance operations on the B9176 Struie Road following severe snow events.

### **2 Winter Service Policy**

- 2.1 The Winter Service Policy 2018 ensures a consistent level of winter service for roads and footways across all areas.
- 2.2 As it is impossible to provide winter maintenance service across all roads at the same time, roads are classified as either Primary, Secondary or Other depending on the road hierarchy. Primaries are treated first then Secondaries and finally Others as resources permit.
- 2.3 The policy specifies target treatment times for each road class.

### **3 Black Isle and Easter Ross Winter Report 2025/26**

- 3.1 The Winter Report was approved the Black Isle and Easter Ross Committee on 11 August 2025.
- 3.2 The report summarises the resources available to undertake winter maintenance operations together with the route maps detailing the roads treated. Appendix 2 of that report shows the B9176 as a Primary Route.

### **4 Winter Service Operations**

- 4.1 For operational reasons, Winter service operations on the B9176 Struie Road are undertaken by Sutherland Area's Ardgay Depot.

## **5 Snow Gates**

- 5.1 Snow Gates are located at either end of the B9176 Struie Road and on U1878 at Aultnamain.
- 5.2 Police Scotland instruct The Highland Council to close the snow gates during adverse winter conditions.
- 5.3 When the snow gates are closed traffic is diverted west on the A836 to the A9(T) and then southbound.

## **6 Extreme Snow Falls During January 2026**

- 6.1 During early January 2026 the north of Scotland experienced severe snow fall and drifting snow. This significantly impacted on travel across the area.
- 6.2 Due to sickness, there was only one operative available at the Ardgay depot. It was decided to deploy the available resources to the Primary Routes to the north of Ardgay given the traffic and communities affected.
- 6.3 The B9176 Struie Road was opened 10 days after the snow event once resources became available.
- 6.4 During the severe winter conditions all available resources, including contractors, were deployed to the treat the road network across both Sutherland and Ross and Cromarty.

## **7 Future Winter Service Operations on B9176 Struie Road**

- 7.1 The Council will commit to treating the Struie as a Primary route as set out in the Winter Service Policy (2018) and as agreed by Area Committee. The Council will continue to work with Police Scotland where necessary to ensure that this regionally important road will be opened as a matter of priority, and as quickly as possible after any storm has abated.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive – Place

Date: 1 July 2026

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Background Papers: None

Appendices: None