

# ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World

<b>Report Name</b>	Strategic Transport Appraisal Update
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Pau Finch
<b>Report Author</b>	Paul Finch, Strategy Manager, Nestrans / CRD Transport Lead
<b>Date of Report</b>	21 August 2020
<b>Governance</b>	City Region Deal Joint Committee

<b>1:</b>	<b>Purpose of the Report</b>
This report updates the Joint Committee on the progression of the Strategic Transport Appraisal, focussing on the consultation currently being undertaken on the Regional Transport Strategy and priority transport interventions.	

<b>2:</b>	<b>Recommendations for Action</b>
The report is brought before the Joint Committee for their awareness. Responses to the consultation exercise are invited from the City Region Deal partners.	

<b>3:</b>	<b>Summary of Key Information</b>
<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The Strategic Transport Appraisal element of the City Region Deal is defined as follows:</p> <p><i>In order to realise the full potential of the area a transport appraisal (supported by UK Government and Scottish Government, Transport Scotland and local partners) will take a 20 year strategic view of the transport implications of the investment unlocked by this Deal across all modes including road and rail. This work will commence in 2016 and will be based on Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance. The appraisal will recognise the priorities of local, regional and national transport plans and programmes as well as the existing work outlined above.</i></p> <p><i>The scope of work will include addressing issues at key gateways into Aberdeen; enabling safe, reliable and attractive connections (road and public transport) along key strategic corridors which promote economic growth; tying together transport infrastructure and development planning/management, on a city/region basis; and facilitating the City Centre Masterplan.</i></p> <p>The various different stages of Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance have been worked through, culminating in a draft Preliminary Options Appraisal report being finalised in June this year. The outcomes of this work have, in turn, influenced the content of the revised draft Regional Transport Strategy, published by Nestrans. It is highlighted that the scope of the Regional Transport Strategy is broader than the scope of the work on the Strategic Transport Appraisal.</p>	

<b>3:</b>	<b>Summary of Key Information</b>
<p>The RTS and work on the Strategic Transport Appraisal are now open for consultation, with a closing date of Friday 16 October. Consultation materials, can be accessed from <a href="http://www.nestrans2040.org">www.nestrans2040.org</a>. A Strategic Environment Appraisal, and Equalities Assessment are also available for comment. It is planned to hold a series of on-line briefing events to present the work, and facilitate questions and answers on the work during the consultation period.</p> <p>The outcomes of the STA work identified 29 interventions for continued development, and considered whether they should be progressed by local authorities; as part of Nestrans' RTS; with support from CRD; or recommended for promotion by Transport Scotland and their Strategic Transport Projects Review. The following interventions were identified as suitable for further progression with support from CRD funding.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Active Travel linking to, and within, the City Centre</li> <li>2. New Railway Stations on existing Lines</li> <li>3. Strategic Public Transport Corridor Schemes linked with Park and Ride Sites.</li> <li>4. Trunk Road improvement – Ellon to Toll of Birness, and thereafter to Peterhead/Fraserburgh</li> <li>5. Local Road improvements on A92 corridor– Wellington Road, links to Aberdeen South Harbour</li> <li>6. Westhill Corridor – early consideration of connectivity and development pressures</li> <li>7. Improvement of Inter-City Rail connections, to Central Belt and Inverness, including rail freight opportunities</li> </ol> <p>The summary of the Strategic Transport Appraisal work is provided as an appendix to this report. The full work is available at <a href="http://www.nestrans.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Aberdeen-City-Region-Deal-Strategic-Transport-Appraisal-Draft-Preliminary-Options-Appraisal-Report-Final.pdf">http://www.nestrans.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Aberdeen-City-Region-Deal-Strategic-Transport-Appraisal-Draft-Preliminary-Options-Appraisal-Report-Final.pdf</a></p> <p>The next steps will be to consider the outcomes of the consultation on the RTS and STA work, prior to finalisation of the work later in 2020. A revised outline business case will then be brought back to the committee mapping out the development work planned for the next five years of the deal. This will continue alongside ongoing discussions with key stakeholders, including Transport Scotland, and public transport operators. It is highlighted that national work on the second Strategic Transport Projects Review is currently paused whilst the focus is placed on developing their Transport Transition plans.</p>	

<b>4:</b>	<b>Finance and Risk</b>
<p>The Strategic Transport Appraisal is associated with £7m funding, with £5m from Scottish Government and UK Government, and £1m each from the two local authorities. Just over £2m has been invested in the work to date, which has also included the ongoing development of strategic transport model, ASAM.</p> <p>The funding associated with the STA is linked to option appraisal and development, but not implementation. There is a risk that despite positive business cases being developed, that funding for scheme implementation will not necessarily be available. There is a risk that national priorities for investment will not align with regional priorities.</p>	