

# ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World

<b>Report Name</b>	Scottish Government Additional Investment Update – Transport Projects
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<b>Date of Report</b>	17 May 2022
<b>Governance</b>	Additional Investment Memorandum of Understanding

<b>1:</b>	<b>Purpose of the Report</b>
To update the Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee on the progress of projects being taken forward through the additional Scottish Government investment announced alongside the Aberdeen City Region Deal. This report covers progress on the A90/A937 Laurencekirk Junction Improvement Scheme and the investment in the rail network to improve services between Aberdeen and the Central Belt. Transport Scotland's update report is provided as an <b>Appendix</b> to this cover report.	

<b>2:</b>	<b>Recommendations for Action</b>
To note the update in the report.	

<b>3:</b>	<b>Summary of Key Information</b>
<p><b><u>Governance</u></b></p> <p>Funding for the two transport projects was announced alongside the City Region Deal by the Scottish Government. These projects are wholly funded by the Scottish Government and are being managed by Transport Scotland. The MoU notes:...</p> <p><i>“The transport commitment that forms part of the package of additional Scottish Government investment alongside the City Region Deal is:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• An initial £200 million additional funding to help improve journey times and increase capacity on key rail links between Aberdeen and the Central Belt: and</i></li><li><i>• £24 million of funding for the trunk roads programme to support improvements to the key A90/A937 south junction at Laurencekirk</i></li></ul> <p><i>There is value in ensuring that the Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee is kept informed of progress with these projects to that it can maximise synergies with the City Region Deal investments.”</i></p>	

<b>3:</b>	<b>Summary of Key Information</b>
<p>Officers from Transport Scotland have attended the Joint Committee on a six-monthly basis to provide updates on the progress of the projects (typically May/June and November joint committees).</p> <p>Both of the Transport Projects have accompanying stakeholder liaison groups. In the case of the Aberdeen to Central Belt group, these meets quarterly, with the last meeting being 25 April 2022. For the Laurencekirk project, the last meeting was held late 2021.</p> <p>Furthermore, the CRD Transport Working Group meets approximately every 6 weeks, and the two MoU Transport Projects are included on the agenda as a standing item. Representatives from Transport Scotland are invited to this meeting.</p> <p><b>A90/A937 Laurencekirk Junction Improvement Scheme</b>  The <b>Appendix</b> sets out the progress update provided by Transport Scotland.</p> <p>The most recent stakeholder group meetings have focussed on outcomes of the design consultant’s assessment of options around Oatyhill Bridge, and subsequent consideration by Transport Scotland.</p> <p><b>Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail Improvements</b>  The <b>Appendix</b> sets out the progress update provided by Transport Scotland. The most recent discussion have focussed on option assessment and business case development.</p>	
<b>4:</b>	<b>Financial and Risk Implications</b>
<p>There are no direct financial implications for the Joint Board arising from the progress report, as the two transport projects are directly funded and project managed by the Scottish Government / Transport Scotland.</p> <p>With respect to A90/A937 Laurencekirk Grade Separated Junction project, it is important that partners continue to work together in order to finalise development and assessment of alternative options, in order to minimise programme impact.</p> <p>With respect to Aberdeen to Central Belt project, officers will continue to work with Network Rail and Transport Scotland on the progression of the project, and the delivery of regional benefits.</p>	