

ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World



Report Name	External Transportation Links to Aberdeen South Harbour – Progress Report
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Report Author	Ross Stevenson
Date of Report	6 September 2024
Governance	City Region Deal Joint Committee

1:	Purpose of the Report
<p>At the Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee of 8 September 2023 the committee instructed:</p> <p>i. <i>that regular update reports be provided in respect of the timescales and project finance costs to each future meeting of the Joint Committee;</i></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update the Joint Committee on timescales and the project finance costs.</p>	

2:	Recommendations for Action
<p>i. Note the ongoing discussions with both Governments with regard to the Outline Business Case.</p> <p>ii. Note the progress of the scheme with regard to the ongoing detailed design work, Planning Application, and the progression of the Compulsory Purchase Order.</p> <p>iii. Note the ongoing consideration of traffic management measures restricting access by Heavy Good Vehicles to Torry and Cove via the Coast Road, and the requirement for any unresolved objections to be reported to the Aberdeen City Council Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee.</p>	

3:	Summary of Key Information
<p>i. Following consideration by the Joint Committee the Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 3 Scheme</p>	

3:

Summary of Key Information

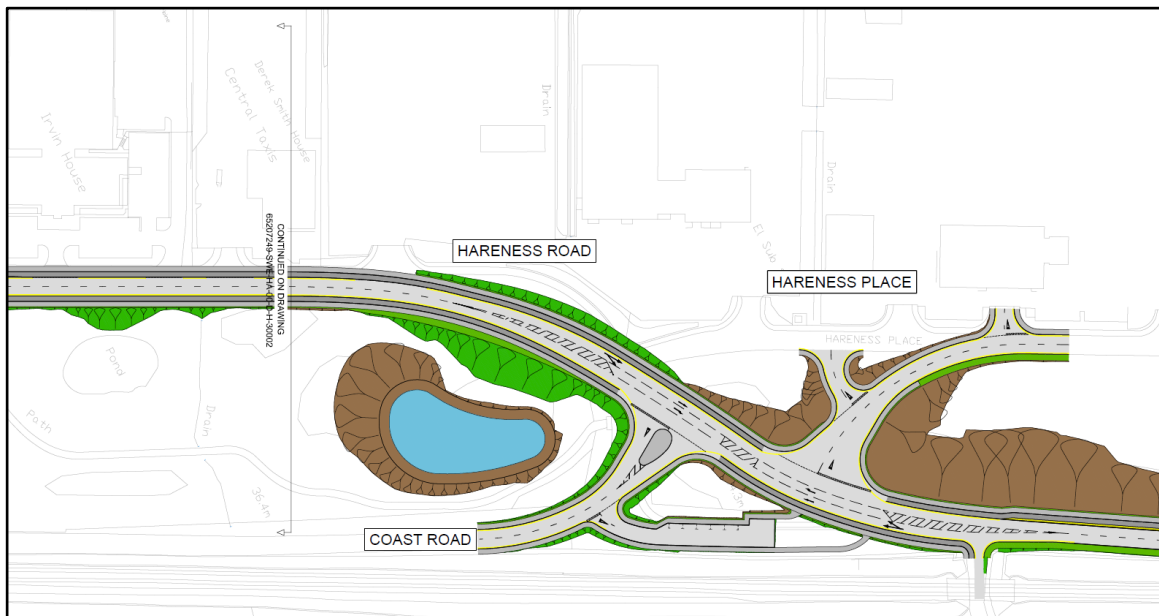
Assessment and Updated Outline Business Case have been submitted to the governments. Feedback on the OBC has been received and discussions to allow progression of the project beyond Full Business Case are ongoing.

- ii. The detailed design for the project continues to progress with the first phase alignment design, fencing, road restraint systems, earthworks, pavement, traffic signs & road markings, and street lighting packages all completed.
- iii. Further drainage, traffic, topographic and Ground Penetrating Radar surveys have been progressed since the project was last reported to the Joint Committee in May 2024.

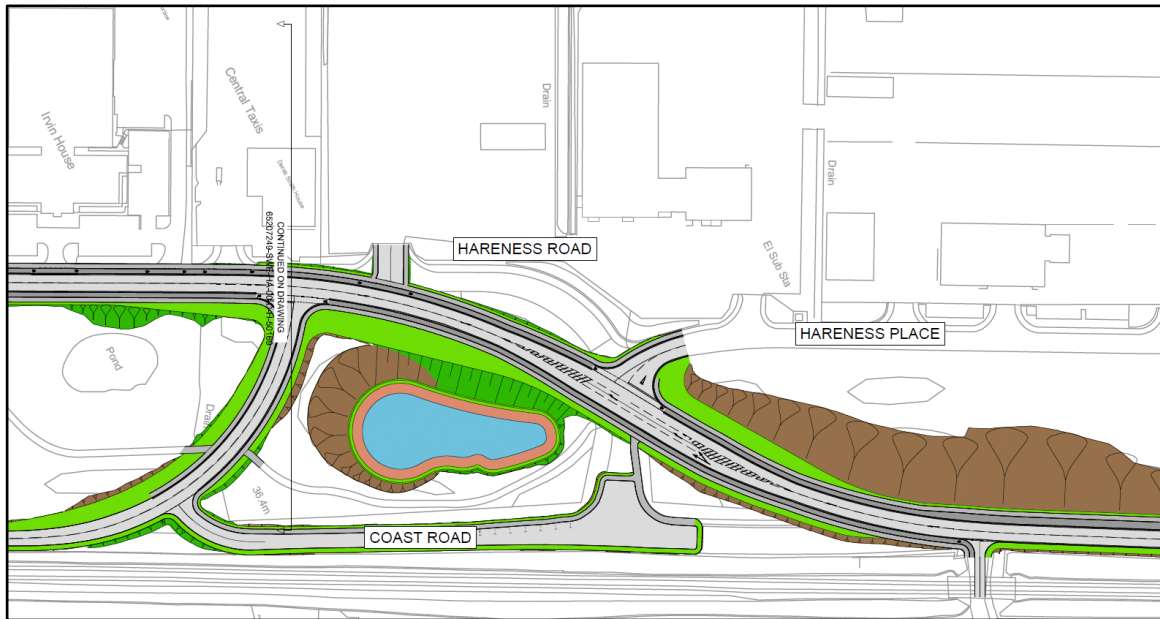
Hareness Road/Coast Road Junction Design

- iv. As part of the ongoing detailed design process and in parallel with the Constructability and Phasing assessment, it was identified that by altering the alignment of the southern section of Coast Road, relocating the junction further south, the main through road alignment could be adjusted and lowered, this significantly reduces the impact on Hareness Place and the associated impact on properties accessed from it.

DMRB Stage 3 Junction Design



Revised Detailed Design Layout



Planning Application

- v. A planning application for the project was submitted to Aberdeen City Council on 20 May, this application was subsequently validated on Monday 27 May 2024. Nine consultees raised feedback on the submission with one further letter of support. Further documentation has since been submitted and subsequently responded to the consultees for further feedback. It is anticipated that a decision on the planning application will be made in autumn 2024.

Compulsory Purchase Order

- vi. On 31 May 2024 notice was served that The Aberdeen City Council (Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road) Compulsory Purchase Order 2024 was made. Notice was served directly to those with an interest in the affected land, with public notices being placed within the local paper, on street, at the Town House, and advertised online. Anyone wishing to object to the CPO was given until 10 July 2024 to submit objections to the Scottish Ministers.
- vii. Two objections were submitted to the Scottish Ministers. Officers believe that they should be able to resolve the issues raised in the objections avoiding the need to refer the matter to the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division for consideration by a Reporter.

Temporary Traffic Management During Construction

- viii. At its meeting of 2 June 2023 the Joint Committee noted a progress report on the Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road project. In addition to agreeing the recommendations of the report, the minute of the meeting recorded “*There was also discussion of the buildability of the project and the need to ensure that access was maintained to surrounding roads and infrastructure during the build to ensure the minimum of disruption to local residents and businesses.*”
- ix. A Constructability and Phasing assessment is currently being developed, this assessment considers the construction phases of the project, how access can be maintained to properties, and whether roads can be kept open whilst maintaining appropriate working space to ensure the health and safety of construction workers, road users and users of the adjacent sites.
- x. The initial work undertaken on this assessment confirms that Hareness Road can operate safely with access for all maintained under one-way traffic restrictions, however, early indications suggest that there may be time and cost savings associated with the closure of Coast Road for an extended period during construction.
- xi. Further work is being undertaken on this subject, including the progression of the design of the western abutment and foundations of the new railway bridge structure, and consultation with Port of Aberdeen, Energy Transition Zone and Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub, each of which are likely to have construction activities progressing simultaneously.

Permanent Traffic Management

- xii. At its meeting of 9 February 2024 the Joint Committee agreed to “*Instruct the Chief Officer – Capital, Aberdeen City Council, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Operations and Protective Services, to consider the viability of further restricting access by Heavy Good Vehicles to Torry and Cove via the Coast Road and bring a report to the Joint Committee on any proposals.*”
- xiii. An Automatic Number Plate Recognition ANPR traffic survey was undertaken throughout the area between 2 July and 4 July 2024. This survey will be supplemented by a further validation survey to be carried out in September and used to update the paramics model for the area.
- xiv. The traffic survey will inform the considerations for any potential traffic restrictions identified. Should restrictions be considered necessary the Chief Officer Operations and Protective Services, under delegated powers can commence the statutory procedure to promote a Traffic Regulation Order reporting any unresolved objections to the Net Zero, Environment and

3: Summary of Key Information

Transport Committee. An update on the proposals will be included to a future meeting of the Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee.

Programme and Milestones

- i. Current progress on the project is to programme and the milestones remain as follows:

Project Milestones	Current Date
Structure – Technical Approval (ACC and Network Rail)	07/11/2024
Complete Detailed Design	01/11/2024
Post Design Public Exhibition	01/11/2024
Supplier Selection – Complete SPD	11/09/2024
Issue of Invitation to Tender	13/01/2025
Conclusion of statutory processes	20/12/2024
Final Business Case	01/04/2025
Major Milestone: Road Infrastructure Open for use	12/02/2027

4: Finance and Risk

- i. Ongoing global factors are having a significant impact on the supply of construction materials with associated impact on overall scheme costs, as such the Project Team will regularly review the scheme cost estimate.
- ii. Following award of the construction contracts the financial profile for the project will be updated and the Joint Committee will be updated as part of the regular progress updates.
- iii. Timescale risks associated with the statutory approvals and the acquisition of third party land remain.