

ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World



COMMITTEE	Aberdeen City Region Deal (ACRD) Joint Committee
DATE	15 November 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	External Transportation Links to Aberdeen South Harbour – Progress Report
LEAD OFFICERS	John Wilson
REPORT AUTHORS	Ross Stevenson
REPORT DATE	8 November 2024

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 commencement of discussions on utilising one of the Governments' Construction Frameworks as an alternative procurement route from the two stage Restricted Procedure previously envisioned.</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>	

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Summary of Key Information

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

- ii. The detailed design for the project continues to progress with the second 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 September. Additional ground investigation works are programmed to commence in November 2024.

Structures Package

- iv. The detailed design package has been passed to Aberdeen City Council and Network Rail. The current design package includes piling into fractured rock for the foundation of the abutment of the east side of the railway line. Additional ground investigation work is required to finalise this element of the design.

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. As previously advised to the Committee, notice was served for The Aberdeen City Council (Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road) Compulsory Purchase Order 2024 and those with an interest in the affected land were given until 10 July 2024 to submit objections to the Scottish Ministers. Two objections were received. Whilst the project continues to attempt to resolve the issues raised in the objections, they have now also been referred to Planning and Environmental Appeals Division for consideration by a Reporter.

Procurement

- vii. Officers are currently in discussions with Aberdeen City and Shire Central Procurement Unit over the potential use of National Construction Frameworks one of which has recently been established. The use of these frameworks

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Summary of Key Information

removes the need to undertake the Single Procurement Document (SPD) process and could streamline the procurement process.

- viii. Steps to ensure that the construction framework is available are underway with the Central Procurement Unit progressing the necessary governance towards the adoption of the framework. On the conclusion of the adoption process it is intended to publish an Expression of Interest (EOI) to start the call off process.
- ix. The key benefits of using the new Construction Framework include, Value for Money, Speed to Market, Sustainability (Net Zero / Carbon embedded in Scope), Fair Work commitments, Community Benefits and Performance, this is measured on environmental, social and fair work metrics.

Construction

- x. Through ongoing dialogue with representatives from the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub (AHH), it has become apparent that the scale of construction works within both Hareness Road and Coast Road prior to the commencement of the Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road project is extensive. It is anticipated that the two projects will be able to work together to minimise direct conflict, however due to competing project demands and programs it is unlikely that these works can proceed concurrently. As such the AHH works are likely to commence in advance of the ASHLR contract prolonging the duration of disruption experienced by the travelling public.
- xi. SSE are bringing forward major works for the refurbishment of their high voltage power distribution route in the south of the city, some of these works occur on Wellington Road. It is likely that this will include the closure of one carriageway on Wellington Road for an extended duration. With this in mind further discussions with Port of Aberdeen, ETZ, AHH and SSE are required to further develop the Constructability and Phasing Assessment.

Programme and Milestones

- xii. Due to the requirement for additional Ground Investigation works there is a delay to the project. This delay is currently estimated at 6- 8 weeks, technical advisors are currently reviewing the delay, mitigation measures and impact on the critical path. Until this can be fully updated the milestones below will be delayed.

3: Summary of Key Information

Project Milestones	Planned Date	
Supplier Selection – Complete SPD	11/09/2024	Alternative procurement route being reviewed.
Complete Detailed Design	01/11/2024	Progress with delay
Post Design Public Exhibition	01/11/2024	Delayed
Structure – Technical Approval (ACC and Network Rail)	07/11/2024	Progress with delay
Issue of Invitation to Tender	13/01/2025	Progress with delay
Conclusion of statutory processes	20/12/2024	In progress
Final Business Case	01/04/2025	Progress with delay
Major Milestone: Road Infrastructure Open for use	12/02/2027	On track

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 procurement 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.