

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Infrastructure
DATE	13 January 2015
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	A956 Wellington Road Corridor
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/14/080
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to ensure that sufficient land can be reserved for the City Council to widen Wellington Road for improvements to this important transport corridor at the development opportunity site (OP104) arising from the closure of Craiginches prison by the Scottish Government.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:-

- The Committee approve the land identified on the site of the former Craiginches Prison for the purposes of improving the transport corridor A956 Wellington Road
- Refer the matter to the Council budget process to take forward the purchase of the site.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None associated with this report. The intention is for the City Council to acquire land from the Scottish Government so there will be a financial implication associated with that acquisition.

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The eventual acquisition of the site will require input from legal and property teams to negotiate the value and to conclude the conveyance.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The A956 Wellington Road is a dual carriageway to the north of Charlestown Junction, except for a short section of single carriageway between Queen Elizabeth Bridge and the pedestrian crossing to the south of Polwarth Road.

A multi-modal corridor study has been commissioned to look at ways of improving conditions for all transport users along Wellington Road. The study is nearing completion and its findings will be reported to members in 2015.

It will take into account a previous NESTRANS-funded study - Aberdeen Access from the South – which identified the long-term need for additional capacity across the River Dee. It recognised that Wellington Road northbound suffers significant delays during the morning peak period, on its approach to the Queen Elizabeth Bridge. However, the study did not consider widening this section of Wellington Road, due to the prison being operational at that time.

Members will be aware that Craiginches prison closed several months ago and Scottish Government have been considering options for its redevelopment. Early discussions by officers have identified the desire to identify any land required for improvements to the transport corridor at an early date. Not only will this approach be easier at this stage by dealing with one landowner, but by protecting the area of land it will avoid delays to any improvement project in future.

The area of land required is shown on Appendix 1, and this is based on the space required for a typical urban dual carriageway with footways.

## 6. IMPACT

The report meets with the local Community Plan objectives to continually improve road safety and maximise accessibility for pedestrians and all modes of transport.

The proposals are in line with the Council's Local Transport Strategy to improve safety for all road users by continuing to reduce the number of casualties in traffic collisions.

The contents of this report link to the Community Plan vision of creating a "sustainable City with an integrated transport system that is accessible to all".

The project will contribute to the delivery of the Smarter Mobility aims of Aberdeen – *The Smarter City*: "We will encourage cycling and walking",

and “We will provide and promote a sustainable transport system, including cycling, which reduces our carbon emissions.”

## 7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Acquiring the land at this stage reduces future risks of having to secure land from a number of landowners. It will also allow the prospective development to be designed in a way that minimises objection and complaints in future as the land will be omitted from any sale of the site for development.

## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Access from the South 2008 Study

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/access-from-the-south.html>

Appendix 1 – Indicative Plan showing land required for road widening

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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