

ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World

Report Name	Scottish Government Additional Investment Update
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Governance	Additional Investment Memorandum Of Understanding

1:	Purpose of the Report
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 Laurencekirk Junction Improvement Scheme and the investment in the rail network to improve services between Aberdeen and the Central Belt.	

2:	Recommendations for Action
To note the update in the report.	

3:	Summary of Key Information
Background	
<p>The transport related investment which the Scottish Government announced in addition to the Aberdeen CRD commitments included £24 million for the design and construction of a new grade-separated junction at Laurencekirk and £200 million to help improve journey times and increase capacity on key rail links between Aberdeen and the Central Belt.</p>	
A90 Laurencekirk Junction Improvement Scheme	
<p>Transport Scotland appointed design consultants (AMEY) for the A90 Laurencekirk Junction Improvement scheme in September 2016. This allows progress of the design development and assessment phases based on the standards of good practice set by the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB).</p>	

3: Summary of Key Information

The emerging options from the DMRB Stage 2 assessment process were presented to the public at an exhibition in October 2017 with the preferred option itself announced in July 2018 at a series of public exhibitions. The preferred option consists of a south grade-separated junction with a full diamond layout and bridge over the A90 together with retention of the existing central reserve gaps at the Centre (B9120) and North (A937) junctions.

Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail Investment

The Aberdeen to Central Belt Reference Group met on 12 September 2019 at Dundee. The Reference Group, which was led by Transport Scotland and included Train and Freight Operating Companies, Network Rail, Nestrans, Tactran, and ScotRail, was updated on the extensive enhancements to the north-east's rail services since 2016. Aberdeenshire Council also attended this meeting.

The Reference Group discussed in some depth how best to utilise the £200 million committed by the Scottish Government in 2016 to improve journey times and increase capacity on key rail links between Aberdeen and the Central Belt for passengers and freight. The outcome of the discussion was that funding is best focussed on signalling enhancements between Dundee and Aberdeen that would in turn help to facilitate, and maximise the benefits from:

- Freight/passenger loops;
- Targeted line-speed improvements; and
- Electrification of the line, in accordance with the Programme for Government.

The project is now moving to the delivery phase and week commencing 28 October 2019 Transport Scotland will issue a remit to Network Rail to take the above proposals forward. Therefore the Project Reference Group has been closed out and a new Project Delivery Group (PDG) will be formed. The Aberdeen City Region Deal Partners (represented by Aberdeenshire Council Transportation), Nestrans, and Tactran, will be invited to send a representative to initial meetings of the PDG during the project development phase. These early PDG meetings will be rotated between Aberdeen, Perth and Glasgow.