

Report to Partnership Meeting 27 November 2015

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Inverness Airport (Dalcross) Station Strategic Business Case

Purpose of Report

This report provides Members with information on the Inverness Airport (Dalcross) station reopening project.

Network Rail

BAM Nuttall has been appointed the principal contractor for the £170m upgrade of Scotland's Aberdeen-Inverness line. After helping deliver the £294m Borders Railway last month, BAM will now oversee the delivery of the improvement project's first phase over the next four years. Its engineers will double-track 16 miles of line between Aberdeen and Inverurie, as well as build a new station at Forres and straighten the railway alignment.

They will also extend platforms at Insch and Elgin to accommodate longer trains, upgrade signalling systems along the route and install infrastructure to allow new station to be built at Dalcross and Kintore.

Engineers are currently undertaking ground investigations, site surveys and vegetation clearance works on the line ahead of main construction work which starts in spring 2016. BAM's work will be delivered in partnership with AECOM, CH2M, Stobart Rail and Siemens. Plans for new stations at Dalcross and Kintore are being developed separately by HITRANS and NESTRANS respectively, while a further phase of the Aberdeen-Inverness project is to be developed.

Transport Assessment

AECOM's Transport Assessment has highlighted the small increases in journey times for local residents as a result of the closure of the level crossing. Some of these will be mitigated by the A96 Dualling programme.

Business Case

This will be completed when the car park size is finally fixed. Currently the Benefit: Cost ratio is the region of 6.

Car Parking/Access

Useful discussions continue with HIAL and IABP around the size and operation of the car park. The 150 space car park including access roads is costed at £1.3m; the 20+6 space car park is costed at £896k. Revenue funding will be required for the shuttle bus link. The SSF will only contribute to a proportion of car park costs for the 150 space scheme.

Planning

In September HITRANS presented the case for the station and associated road closure to THC's Ward 18 and 19 members. It is proposed to hold a public consultation event at the Airport Terminal, during the 12 week period following the lodging of the planning application. If we are successful in achieving planning consent in 2016 this would suggest a potential opening date of 2017.

Funding

Highland Council and HIAL are both proposing to contribute capital funding to the project. When backed with HITRANS £130k spent so far and the £450k land value we will have a significant sum to assist our Scottish Stations Fund bid. Revenue funding will be required for the shuttle bus link. The SSF will only contribute to a proportion of car park costs for the 150 space scheme. The SSF application will be progressed in tandem with the planning process.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report and to consider funding options.

Risk	Impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	This project fits well with a number of RTS Horizontal themes.
Policy	√	This project has integration and environmental benefits.
Financial	√	This project is partially fully funded
Equality	-	No impact on equalities issues.

Report by: Frank Roach
Designation: Partnership Manager
Date: 18 November 2015