

## Report to Partnership Meeting 13 April 2017

### RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

#### Inverness Airport Dalcross

##### Purpose of the Report

This report provides members with information on the Inverness Airport Dalcross

##### Planning

Planning permission for the station was obtained at the meeting of the Highland Council South Planning Committee held on 28 Feb 2017. The Action note appears below.

**Applicant:** HITRANS (16/04540/FUL) (PLS/015/17)  
**Location:** Land 685m South of Inverness Airport, Dalcross (Ward 18)  
**Nature of Development:** Construction of a single platform railway station with associated facilities and works to facilitate physical closure of an existing level crossing.  
**Recommendation:** Grant

**Agreed:** to **GRANT** planning permission for (1) the construction of the single platform railway station with associated facilities and (2) works to facilitate the physical closure of Petty Level Crossing

subject to the conditions recommended in the report, however, taking into account additional wording to be added to Condition 11 which is now to read as follows:

- The works to facilitate physical closure of the Petty Level Crossing shall not be implemented until (a) the rail halt and its associated 50 space car park become operational and the pedestrian link on the south side of the rail line between the Woodend Crossing and the C1020 road is available, and (b) an order under section 207 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (the Act) authorising the stopping up of the Petty Level Crossing has been made by the planning authority and has been confirmed either by Scottish Ministers if the order is opposed or, if it is not opposed, by the planning authority, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Schedule 16 to the Act. Further **AGREED** to authorise the making of an order under section 207 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the stopping up of the Petty Level Crossing.

To this end meetings have been held with Highland Council planners and with Network Rail on the procedure for the level crossing closure.

We have formulated the following plan of action:

1. Network Rail to produce rationale for level crossing closure, and also to prepare, for internal use, reaction to issues raised through the planning objections.
2. HITRANS and Network Rail to brief THC officers- including transport, planning, legal.

3. Organise public drop in event for the public so that local concerns can be informally discussed (NR/HITRANS).
4. Brief council members post- election, as per the Town House meeting in Sept 15 (NR/HITRANS/THC).
5. Meet Ardersier and Petty Community Council (NR/HITRANS).
6. Advertise stopping up order (THC).

There may be objections which will then trigger a Public Local Inquiry. The crossing closure must be achieved to permit the station opening,

### **Funding**

A funding gap of £1.3m remains between the £5m Network Rail estimate for construction and the funds raised from local partners and the Scottish Stations Fund, and we are actively working to reduce this. We are also seeking an estimate from NR's contractors BAM Nuttall to see if there is a variance between the estimates.

### **RISK REGISTER**

#### RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive.

Comment –This project is in the RTS

#### Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment –Development of the rail network, mode shift/interchange, regional connectivity

#### Financial

Impact – Neutral

Budget line and value – This item has financial costs.

Comment –A funding gap still exists

#### Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment –No equalities issues

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Members are asked to note the report.

**Report by:** Frank Roach  
**Designation:** Partnership Manager  
**Date:** 5 April 2017