

PRESS RELEASE

GREEN LIGHT FOR ABERDEEN WESTERN PERIPHERAL ROUTE WILL UNLOCK NORTH EAST'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

21 December 2009

Confirmation by Scottish Ministers that the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) will go-ahead has been welcomed by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI).

Ian Armstrong, SCDI North East Manager, said:

“Competitive access to global markets is a major priority as the North East works to transition our maturing oil and gas sector into an all-energy industry and diversify our economic base, so this decision on the AWPR has been the key to the long-term success of our economy.

“The green light for the AWPR will boost economic recovery and confidence. It will also unlock our economic future, securing our position as an attractive business location. With the city-region home to a third of Scotland's top 100 companies, this is nationally important.

“The AWPR will reduce congestion in Aberdeen and on rural roads around the City, and better link our airport and harbours. This will bring more visitors to the area, especially into Aberdeenshire, and make it easier to export our products - such as food and drink - to market.

“This project has been identified as good for the economy for 60 years and it is now widely recognised as essential. We are concerned about the lack of clarity on the delivery timescale. We would call for work to start without further delay to support the construction industry and ensure the route is open as soon as possible, alongside work to fulfill the commitments to lock-in the benefits of new capacity by improving public transport and tackling pinch-points.”

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