

GoBike

15 May 2020

Our Reference
60615250/RH/S2C/GB

North Lanarkshire Council
East Airdrie Link Road – Options Appraisal

Dear Sir/Madam

AECOM were appointed by North Lanarkshire Council in 2019 to undertake an initial feasibility study to consider options for the East Airdrie Link Road, part of the Glasgow City Region Deal's Pan-Lanarkshire Orbital Transport Corridor Project, which will deliver the transport infrastructure needed to improve connectivity between centres of population and employment sites in North Lanarkshire, unlocking the economic development potential of the former steelworks site of Ravenscraig, a strategic economic investment location with national development status.

The Pan-Lanarkshire Orbital Transport Corridor Project will provide:

- new and upgraded road infrastructure on an orbital route from the M74 at Motherwell, through the strategic economic investment site of Ravenscraig to the M8 at Eurocentral / Newhouse Industrial Estate / Chapelhall and onward past Airdrie via a new link road, to connect with the A73 to the south of Cumbernauld.
- an improved public transport interchange at Motherwell train station, incorporating access improvements, enhanced public realm, park and ride expansion and active travel links.
- the spine of North Lanarkshire's Active Travel Network (north/south).

The East Airdrie Link Road is a significant sub-project of the three sub-projects forming the Pan Lanarkshire Orbital Transport Corridor Project.

The East Airdrie Link Road project was developed to address problems and opportunities associated with the current A73 corridor between the M8 and the M80. It has long been recognised that additional capacity is needed on this key north-south corridor through North Lanarkshire to create opportunities for economic growth by increasing connectivity and reducing congestion, with the related benefits of improved journey times and reliability, improved air quality (specifically in relation to the Chapelhall Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)), and to generate opportunities for modal shift to public transport and active travel.

An initial assessment by AECOM considered a range of options for improving this corridor and formed a Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 1 Scheme Assessment Report. This comprised the identification of the environmental, engineering, economic, and traffic advantages, disadvantages and constraints associated with broadly defined strategies to address the problems identified. The DMRB Stage 1 Report, issued in March 2020, assessed eight strategies and recommended that Strategy 4 (off-

line enhancements focussing on new routes east of the A73) be progressed to DMRB Stage 2 Scheme Assessment.

The Strategy 4 (off-line enhancement) initial route options are being developed for further assessment at DMRB Stage 2. All of these options are new off-line routes to the east of Airdrie, travelling north-south, as shown in Figure 1(attached). The options are as follows:

- Option A: Option A starts at the A73 junction with Lancaster Avenue from there it travels north and to the west of Moffat Mills;
- Option B: Option B starts at the A73 junction with Lancaster Avenue from there it travels north and to the east of Moffat Mills; and,
- Option C: Option C starts at M8 Junction 6A and continues to the west of Chapelhall and Caldercraig.

The number of the option denotes where each of the options terminate:

- 1: Option terminates north of Riggend where the A73 becomes a dual carriageway;
- 2: Option terminates at the B803 (Greengairs Road) and joins the A73 at the B803/A73 Roundabout;
- 3: Option terminates at the A73/ Raebog Road Roundabout (at Albert Bartlett); and,
- 4: Option terminates at the A73 just north of Rawyard Roundabout.

AECOM is currently gathering information on the various engineering, traffic and environmental issues within the study area; this will allow the options to be further developed and the associated impacts to be evaluated.

We are seeking to identify any information you may hold which would be relevant, including:

- Any concerns that you may have about the proposed improvement; and,
- Any issues that you would like to see included in the Stage 2 Report and subsequent assessments.

We would be particularly interested to hear of any issues that may affect the proposed options. We would also be pleased if you could advise of any other parties or organisations that may hold relevant information in respect of assessing this proposal. It is expected that the Stage 2 DMRB report will be published later in 2020.

Whilst it is appreciated that we have all been impacted by the current COVID-19 situation and business is far from normal, if you have any comments to be included in the Stage 2 Report, it would be appreciated if they could be received in writing by 31 May 2020 albeit we would still welcome any feedback beyond that date.

We would also like to make you aware that due to the Scottish and UK Government advice regarding COVID-19 we took the decision to postpone the Stage 1 public engagement events. All the information that would have been presented at the Stage 1 public engagement events is available on North Lanarkshire Council's [website](#).

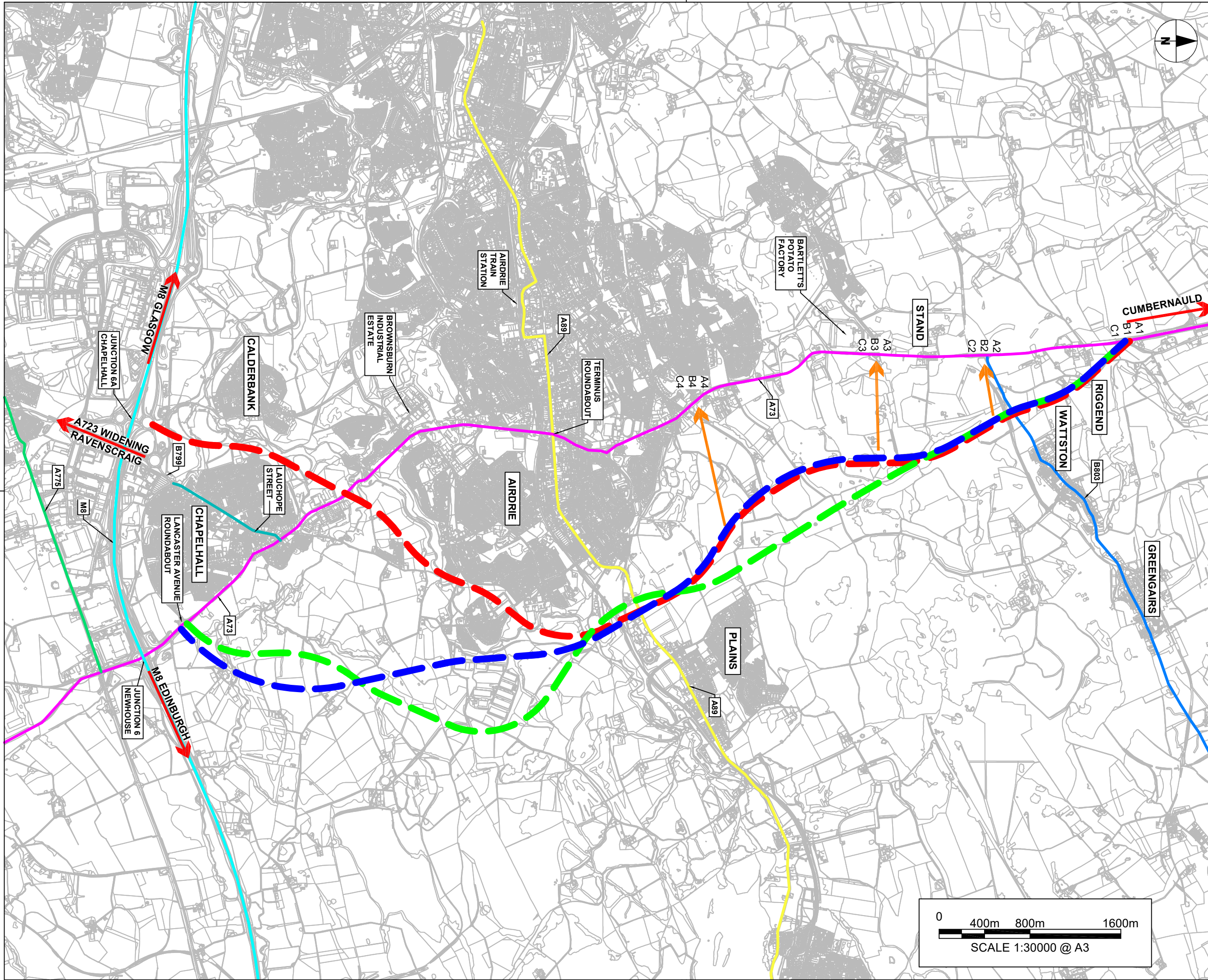
If you wish to discuss the proposals further, or seek clarification about the information requested, please do not hesitate to contact me. As the scheme progresses towards DMRB Stage 3 and single option development there will be further consultation exercises undertaken providing additional opportunity to engage with the project.

Yours faithfully



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enclosures: Figure 1 - Route Options



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KEY
 STRATEGY 4: OFF-LINE ENHANCEMENTS - NEW INDICATIVE ROUTES EAST OF THE A73
 OPTION A
 OPTION B
 OPTION C
 POSSIBLE EARLIER CONNECTIONS TO A73
 EXISTING ROAD NETWORK:
 A73
 A89
 B803
 LAUCHOPE STREET

| REVISION DETAILS | By | Date | Suffix |
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Purpose of issue
 Client: **NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

Project Title
EAST AIRDRIE LINK ROAD

Drawing Title
STRATEGY 4: OFF-LINE ENHANCEMENTS - NEW INDICATIVE ROUTES EAST OF THE A73

Designed: CM, Drawn: CM, Checked: MS, Approved: RH, Date: 4/5/20
 Internal Project No: 60615250
 Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

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Drawing Number: North Lanarkshire PIN | Originator | Volume | Rev
FIGURE 1
 Location | Type | Role | Number

