

## **A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout**

Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESE CRD) partners meeting with Transport Scotland

10 December 2025; 11:30am to 12:30pm

Virtual meeting via MS Teams

### **Attendees**

Edinburgh South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESE CRD) Partners

- Garry Clark (Federation of Small Businesses, ESE CRD Joint Committee)
- Cllr Russell Imrie (Midlothian Council, ESE CRD Joint Committee)
- Cllr Norman Hampshire (East Lothian Council, ESE CRD Joint Committee)
- Cllr Euan Jardine (Scottish Borders Council, ESE CRD Joint Committee)
- Andy Nichol, City of Edinburgh Council (ESE CRD Programme Manager)
- David Hanna, City of Edinburgh Council (ESE CRD Programme Management Office)

Transport Scotland

- Alison Irvine (Transport Scotland Chief Executive)
- Lawrence Shackman (Director of Major Projects)

Apologies

- Paul Lawrence (Chief Officer, ESE CRD Joint Committee)
- Dr Grace Vickers (Chief Executive Officer, Midlothian Council, ESE CRD Joint Committee)
- Kevin Anderson (Executive Director, Place, Midlothian Council, ESE CRD Joint Committee)

ESE CRD partners expressed strong concern over delays on the outcome of the Public Local Inquiry (PLI) Report and ministerial decision for the A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout project. Partners cited impacts of the delay causing issues such as traffic congestion, pollution, and barriers to development and economic growth.

Partners requested clarity on when a decision will be announced and urged for progress.

Transport Scotland reiterated to ESE CRD partners that the statutory process must be followed and advised that a team of officials (who are entirely separate from the promotion team which includes Alison and Lawrence) is reviewing the PLI Reporter's report and evidence. They will then make recommendations to Ministers when ready to do so. This process cannot be interfered with.

Transport Scotland provided assurance that this team of officials is fully resourced and focused on this task, and confirmed their desire for a timely conclusion.

Transport Scotland also confirmed that as Alison's and Lawrence's roles are to promote and deliver improvements to the trunk road network, such as the proposed improvements at Sheriffhall, they are not involved in or sighted on the decision making advice prepared for Ministers. In addition, it was confirmed that neither Alison or Lawrence are sighted on the Reporter's Report, which they will only have sight of following the decision made by the Scottish Ministers.

Transport Scotland also noted that the City Region Deal runs until 2033, which, subject to a favourable decision by Scottish Ministers on whether to compete the statutory process, will allow time for completion of the project within this timeframe.

In summary, ESE CRD partners expressed strong frustration at delays but were understanding of the process constraints which the Scottish Ministers are duty bound to follow.

There were no actions from the meeting.