

Your Ref. PE1478
Our Ref. VW/AW/EM/16/14
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ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

24 July 2013

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Dear Andrew

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1478

Thank you for your e-mail of 31st May 2013 in respect of the above petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government "to deliver the A90 Balmedie to Tippetty Dualling Project as near to the original Transport Scotland promise of 2013 as possible, and by no later than mid-2014".

As you will be aware, Aberdeen City Council is the Appointed Agent of The Scottish Ministers per section 4 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 in respect of the combined Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie-Tippetty Trunk Road scheme.

As such, I welcome the opportunity presented to comment upon Petition PE1487 as presented to your Committee, and provide below Aberdeen City Council's views in regard to the questions raised:

1. At this stage, is it possible to unlink the AWPR and Balmedie to Tippetty projects?

It would not be possible to unlink the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) and the Balmedie - Tippetty Dualling project without incurring further significant cost and delay to both projects. Both projects are currently being procured under a single Non Profit Distribution (NPD) contract. The Contract Notice for the single contract was published on 18 January 2013 in the Official Journal of the European Union and the Public Contracts Scotland procurement portal. Four pre-qualification submissions were received on 4 March 2013.

Following a pre-qualification assessment, four bidders were invited to participate in the competitive dialogue process. This process is now underway with a number of dialogue meetings having now been held with prospective bidders.

VALERIE WATTS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



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Unpicking the contract now would also mean that bidders have incurred 'wasted' costs which would also impinge on bidder confidence for any future bids, not only for these projects but nationally.

2. What is the proposed timescale for completion of the Balmedie to Tippetty section of the project?

The complete delivery of the AWPR\B-T Project has been identified as three distinct phases. The Balmedie-Tippetty section is identified as Phase 2 but it should be noted that all three phases have the same start date, that is when the Contract starts on site and is currently programmed to be late Autumn 2014. The current timescale for completion of the Balmedie to Tippetty section of the project will form part of the dialogue with bidders in the procurement process.

3. What is the scope, within the proposed contract, for the Balmedie to Tippetty section of the project to be given priority and completed first as part of a phased approach?

Please see response above in respect of question 2.

Yours sincerely

Valerie Watts
Chief Executive

copy John Wilson, AWPR Management Agent
Alun Williams, AWPR Asst Management Agent