

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **On behalf of Road Sense**

Monday 21 December 2009 – for immediate use

### **ABERDEEN BYPASS DECISION : CLIMATE-BUSTING, BUDGET-BUSTING AND JUDICIAL REVIEW NOW LIKELY...**

Campaigners from Road Sense (1) the community campaign against the proposed Aberdeen Bypass (Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route – AWPR), (2) today reacted to the Scottish Government's decision to go ahead with the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route by claiming that the project will be both carbon-busting and budget-busting, and that they are now likely to go to Judicial Review.

#### **Climate-busting**

William Walton, Chair of the Road Sense community campaign, said: "Scottish Ministers have waited until after the Copenhagen climate talks are finished to announce their latest climate-busting project. This giant new road will, by the Government's own figures, bring about a nine percent increase in emissions of carbon dioxide by 2026. Either our Government is serious about tackling climate change, or it is not. Clearly the First Minister's recent trip to Copenhagen was just grand-standing and green-washing and he'd rather buy local votes with an ill-conceived and planet-wrecking new road than actually try to meet the ambitious targets set in the Scottish Climate Change Act, and live up to the rhetoric that he cynically spouts at the rest of the world."

#### **Budget-busting**

Henry Irvine-Fortescue, Vice Chair of the Road Sense community campaign, said: "We doubt very much that this enormous road project can be brought in for the proposed cost of £295-395 million. This figure is so old and out-of-date now as to be completely obsolete, and so much has changed in the last six years since it was first quoted that it cannot be correct or valid anymore. I have no doubt that this new road will come in wildly over-budget, which is of enormous concern, as both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils have agreed to pay 9.5 percent of the total uncapped cost of the road, and at a time when both of these Councils are slashing public services and struggling to balance their budgets. This road has great potential to bring the budgets of both Councils to the brink."

#### **Judicial Review**

Sheona Warnock from Road Sense added: "The road may have been given the go-ahead, but our campaign is far from over. The Scottish Government and Transport Scotland have failed to follow due process in promoting this new road, they have forced through a sham Public Local Inquiry with a narrowed scope and remit, and they are rolling their tarmac straight through the European Habitats Directive and the Aarhus Convention. It is now very likely indeed that we will take the project to Judicial Review. We have very little other option."

#### **ENDS**

#### **Editors Notes:**

1. Road Sense was formed in January 2006 and is a community group that includes residents from across the Aberdeen area who are objecting to the AWPR as currently proposed. See: [www.road-sense.org](http://www.road-sense.org).

2. More information about the AWPR can be found at: [www.awpr.co.uk](http://www.awpr.co.uk). More information about the Public Local Inquiry into the AWPR can be found at: [www.awpr-pli.org](http://www.awpr-pli.org).