

Road Sense  
Press Release – for immediate use  
Wednesday 20 January 2009

### Councillor Ford's Motion to the Aberdeenshire Council

Road Sense (1), the campaign group opposed to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route announced today that it fully supports Councillor Martin Ford's motion (3) to protect essential services such as education against the escalating cost of the road. Road Sense wrote today (4), to all Aberdeenshire councillors encouraging them to support the motion, which is tabled at tomorrow's (Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January) council meeting.

Sheona Warnock from Road Sense said, "Based on current road schemes, it is probable that the Shire's share of the bill will come in at over £75 million. We all are extremely concerned to know how the Council will fund this, and we want to see the education service ring-fenced from slashing budget cuts. The Councillors need to examine this motion carefully and see how much they value our children's future. All council tax payers should take note how their own councillors vote today."

"Since 2003, there has been no robust revision of the original estimated cost of the road," William Walton, the Chairman of Road Sense said today. "The public are sick and tired of seeing the old figure of £295m - £395million which is constantly trotted out whenever the AWPR is mentioned. No one believes it any more, particularly as Transport Scotland has already spent £92 million on the project so far. It's high time we got some sanity into the process, particularly as real services for real people are on the line. Nowhere other than in the public sector are major capital projects managed with such disregard to costs, financing and delivery."

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to pay 9.5% of the uncapped amount, excluding the Fastlink, which has yet to be quantified. Aberdeen City likewise will have a similar contribution to make. It remains to be seen how they will fund the AWPR locally.

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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).

3. Cllr Ford's motion to Aberdeenshire Council is:  
'Aberdeenshire Council will not divert funding needed for schools to help it meet its share of the cost of the Western Peripheral Route'  
The Council meeting will be held tomorrow, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

4. Letter to Aberdeenshire Councillors:

19th January 2010  
Dear Councillor,

Councillor Ford's Motion to the Aberdeenshire Council

I write on behalf of Road Sense, the campaign group opposed to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route. We recognise that many Aberdeenshire councillors support the building of the AWPR. However, there must be concerns that the additional costs of the AWPR which will have to be funded by Aberdeenshire Council, will lead to reductions in spending on essential services, including education. It will almost certainly mean foregoing other vital Council projects, such as the rebuilding of schools.

The cost estimate for the project is £295m - £395m, but this figure dates from 2003. There is substantial evidence from other recent comparable road-building projects that the cost of the AWPR may well be between £800m and £1.2 billion, before borrowing costs. As you are aware, Aberdeenshire Council is committed to pay 9.5% of this total, uncapped amount, less the cost of the Fastlink. Road Sense estimates that the Councils would be paying in excess £75m each, as their share.

The Scottish Government has announced that it will start construction on the road next year. They have not announced how much it is going to cost, how it will be funded or the timescale for completion.

We would like to encourage you to vote for Councillor Ford's motion to demonstrate your commitment to protect essential services such as education against the escalating cost of the road.

Yours faithfully,

William Walton  
Chairman – Road Sense