

# **B714 Upgrade – Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What will the B714 upgrade deliver?**

A new single carriageway road link to the West of Dalry, including a new walking and cycling route, will be created between the A737 at Dalry and the A78 Three Towns Bypass.

## **What is the reason for the new road?**

There is a need to improve transport links in North Ayrshire and to improve safety on the B714 and in Kilwinning by reducing the traffic there.

## **How will the local area benefit?**

The upgrade of the B714 will significantly improve connectivity between North Ayrshire and Glasgow, the Central Belt and wider motorway network. This will substantially increase the potential for tourism and economic development and provide enhanced links to the Arran and Cumbrae Ferry services.

It will contribute to the repopulation of our islands and rural areas by providing improved access between the ferry terminals, mainland settlements, Glasgow, the central belt and wider motorway network. This will ensure that those living in our rural, remote and island communities are well connected and have equitable access to services as those living in the rest of Scotland. It will also divert a significant volume of traffic accessing the A78 away from Kilwinning as traffic will connect directly to the A78 via the new upgraded B714. Road safety on the B714 and the A737/A738 in Kilwinning will improve. Traffic congestion will be reduced on the A737/ A738 through Kilwinning, close to four schools, by providing an alternative route for through traffic. It will also create opportunities for cycling and walking improvements on the existing road, which is currently very unattractive to walkers and cyclists.

## **Where will the funding come from?**

The majority of the funding will be provided by the UK government through the £23.7m award from the Levelling Up Fund. North Ayrshire Council will contribute the 10% match funding required by the fund.

## **What is the Levelling Up Fund?**

The UK Government's £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund (LUF) aims to invest at least £800 million in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. North Ayrshire has been identified as a 'priority one' category authority given our socio-economic and connectivity challenges. The LUF focusses investment on projects funding across three themes:

- town centre and high street regeneration
- local transport
- projects and maintaining or explaining cultural and heritage assets

## **Could the funding be spent on something else?**

The funding from the Levelling Up Fund is an external grant and cannot be spent on other projects or services that the Council provides.

## **Will planning permission be required?**

Yes, planning permission is required for the new road.

## **When will a planning application be submitted?**

A planning application will be submitted in Winter 2023.

## **How will the land requirements be addressed?**

A parallel landowner negotiation and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process is proposed to progress the land requirements for the project. This is to ensure that the land acquisition can be achieved, and the project delivered within the funding timescales. The preference will however be to negotiate and reach agreement with the landowners on the purchase of the land. A land agent has been appointed to support landowner engagement. A report will be submitted to Council seeking approval for the CPO process.

## **What notification will be carried out for the Planning Application?**

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) with local communities will be carried out before the planning application is submitted. This will be advertised in local newspapers and local facilities. Once the planning application has been submitted, neighbours within 20m of the application boundary will receive a neighbour notification. Landowners will also be notified.

## **What other approvals are needed?**

The Levelling Up Fund requires that a full business case be prepared and approved before larger transport schemes can formally commence. Until a business case is approved there is a risk that funding could be cancelled if Government policy changes or if the necessary legal permissions or match funding cannot be secured. To mitigate this risk, Development funding is provided at this stage by the UK Government to support the development of the Outline Business Case and the Council has made provision through the £3m match funding to support this project.

## **What are the main project stages?**

The main project stages include:

- an options appraisal which will identify the preferred option
- the detailed design of the preferred option
- production of an outline business case will be submitted during the detailed design stage to the Levelling Up Fund
- production of the full business case, approval of which is needed to secure the funding

## **When will the work start?**

It is aimed that work on building the new road will start in Winter 2024/25.

## **When will the new road open?**

The aim is that the new road will open by summer 2026.

## **How will traffic in my community be affected?**

The new road aims to provide an alternative route for traffic that currently goes through Kilwinning. This should reduce traffic levels on the existing A737/ A738 and improve air quality and reduce conflict between vehicles and pedestrians.

## **How will the new road affect journey times?**

The new road aims to reduce journey times for traffic which normally routes through Kilwinning. It should also reduce congestion in Kilwinning and improve journey times in the town. Journey times will also be more reliable.

## **Will new bus services be provided on the new road?**

It is possible that bus companies will create new routes and services.

## **Will new cycle routes be provided?**

A new pedestrian and cycle path will be provided which will connect to existing walking and cycling routes where possible.

## **Will carbon emissions be increased?**

- the new route aims to reduce traffic congestion on the A737/A738 through Kilwinning by creating an alternative route for through traffic
- the project aims to reduce road traffic emissions from slow moving and queuing traffic
- the new route aims to provide opportunities for public transport and active travel improvements
- the project aims to encourage more people to use sustainable transport options including electric vehicles
- the impact on carbon emissions will be modelled during the design process
- the results of modelling will be considered for both design and construction
- the project will also deliver electric vehicle charging facilities in Saltcoats and Dalry to reduce the reliance on traditional combustion vehicles

## **Will the road mean housing development?**

The purpose of the new route is to improve road safety, reduce traffic congestion and improve journey times by providing an alternative route for through traffic. It will not be designed to facilitate new housing developments and will only have a small number of junctions.

## **Will more jobs and businesses come into the local area?**

The new route aims to improve connections between communities in North Ayrshire and improve access from North Ayrshire to the Central Belt, trunk road and motorway network. This will encourage businesses to locate here and help existing businesses to grow. It will also substantially increase the potential for tourism and provide enhanced links to the Arran and Cumbrae Ferry services.