

Issue Date: Wednesday 24 March 2004

## **INVERNESS CROSS RAIL LINK**

The Highland Council's Planning Development Europe and Tourism Committee has agreed to support a notice of intention to develop a cross rail link in Inverness linking Millburn Road with Longman Road.

The notice, promoted by the Council, will now be referred to Scottish ministers for their consideration.

In supporting the notice, the Committee recommended a total of 12 conditions, governing traffic management, archaeology, contaminated land, noise, pollution control, design details and tree protection.

The cross rail link is seen as an integral part of the city centre land use environment and transport strategy and features in the new Inverness Local Plan, which is the subject of a public inquiry starting on 14 April.

The proposed road alignment connecting Longman and Millburn Roads spans the railway freight yard and the railway station, avoiding the line. The take-off point at Longman Road is directly opposite the new Police Station and is routed between Kwikfit and Lorimer's Restaurant.

At the Millburn Road end, the junction lies against the heavily wooded and steep embankment below Auldcastle Road about 100 metres north of the Farm and Household retail outlet.

Estimated to cost £15 million, the link is being promoted by the Council to better distribute traffic around the city and allow for partial pedestrianisation and environmental improvements in central shopping streets.

It would also accommodate the much longer possibility of providing an integrated rail/bus station by relocating these across the 'through' rail line to the north and west, with bus access taken from Millburn Road at the existing Safeway junction.

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