

Network Rail - Strategic Business Plan Control Period 4

On 1 November Network Rail published its Strategic Business Plan in which it outlined spending plans for Control Period 4 2009-2014. The Office of Rail Regulation will use it in the Periodic Review 2008 to compare against the High Level Output Statements/Statement of Funds Available from DfT and Scottish Ministers and determine the level of Network Rail's access charge income and borrowing against the Regulatory Asset Base for CP4. The headline figure is a spending requirement of over £3bn less than in CP3 on operation, maintenance and renewals but an increase in enhancements leading to an increase in borrowing.

£13m is identified for the development of Scottish Tier 3 schemes which includes Highland Main Line Upgrade (HMLUG) and Inverness-Aberdeen (I2A).

The proposed strategy for Route 25- Highlands includes

- North Highland timetable enhancements
- WHL timetable revision
- Invernet II/ Inverness Airport Dalcross+loop
- HMLUG
- I2A Upgrade
- Conon Bridge Station
- WHL speed increases
- Stanley Junction remodelling
- I2A linespeed review
- Elgin/Insch platform extensions
- improved FSR/NXEC performance
- increased signalling capacity created by RTB replacement
- planned spring and autumn blockades for engineering access
- a new freight terminal for Inverness

FR 05/11/07