



**A9 Dualling: Perth to Inverness
Sustainability Strategy**

February 2016



1. Introduction

At the heart of the Scottish Government's A9 Dualling Programme is a commitment to provide a high quality, economic route that meets the aspiration for sustainable economic development throughout Scotland.

The aim is to deliver an A9 upgrade that is a model of modern infrastructure development, with sustainability embedded through all stages of the delivery process.

The scale of investment represented by the A9 Dualling Programme provides a significant catalyst for the delivery of a wide range of the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives aligned around the themes of Smarter, Greener, Healthier, Safer and Stronger and Wealthier and Fairer. In recognition of this opportunity, the sustainability vision for the A9 Dualling Programme is to deliver:

An A9 that connects people, business and communities, respects the natural environment of the corridor and makes a contribution to creating a successful and sustainable Scotland.

To support this aspiration, a range of A9 Dualling Programme Sustainability Objectives have been defined which will sit alongside the existing A9 Programme Objectives. These sustainability objectives will be delivered through the design, procurement, construction and operational phases of the A9 Dualling to ensure that the programme meets the vision to make a contribution to a successful, sustainable Scotland. They have been developed around the three key themes of People, Performance and Place.

2. Sustainability Objectives

A policy review was undertaken to inform the development of the sustainability objectives.

We will adopt a two-fold approach to sustainability which will focus on:

- The application of the wider Sustainable Economic Growth ambitions of the Scottish Government as driven through legislation, guidance and good practice in design, procurement and construction to deliver sustainability. Our reporting will aim to show how these elements have delivered sustainability through our "business as usual" processes.
- The setting of specific A9 Dualling Programme Sustainability Objectives that reflect the special qualities of the A9 corridor and its communities and the opportunities offered by a programme of this scale.

The Sustainability Objectives have been categorised into three groups:

- The Programme Objectives (Table 1)
- The Sustainability Objectives that will be delivered through business as usual processes (Table 2)
- The specific A9 Dualling Programme Sustainability Objectives (Table 3)

Table 1: The existing Programme Objectives

People/ Place/ Performance	Sustainability Theme	A9 Dualling Programme Objective
Performance	Journey time	Reducing journey times
Performance	Journey time	Improving journey time reliability
People	Safety	Reducing accident severity
People	Safety	Reducing driver stress
Place	Sustainable Travel	Facilitate active travel within the corridor
Place	Sustainable Travel	Improve integration with public transport facilities

Table 2: The Sustainability Objectives that will be delivered through business as usual processes

People/ Place/ Performance	Sustainability Theme	Sustainability Objectives
Performance	Resource Use/ Project Costs	Optimising resource efficiency across the life of the A9 Dualling Programme, with particular regard to geographical scale and project alignment
Performance	Resilience	Building in resilience to extreme weather
Place	Impact to local businesses	Mitigating the construction impacts to local businesses
Place	Environment	Design to meet the needs of, and enhance where possible, the specific qualities of the natural, cultural and historic environment of the A9 corridor

Table 3: The specific A9 Dualling Programme Sustainability Objectives

People/ Place/ Performance	Sustainability Theme	Specific A9 Dualling Programme Sustainability Objectives
Performance	Education & Training	Creating a legacy of skills and learning in Scotland
People	Employment	Realising employment opportunities in Scotland associated with the A9 Programme
Performance	Supporting SMEs	Developing a range of business opportunities for a diverse supply chain
Place/ Performance	The A9 experience	Supporting and improving tourist experiences on the A9
Place/ People	Digital Connectivity	Creating the opportunity to improve digital connectivity across the A9

Sustainability Strategy

3. Implementation

The objectives will be delivered through actions and processes documented in project level Sustainability Delivery Plans.

The actions and processes identified within the plans will be categorised under three headings that broadly define how they will be applied. The three headings and their descriptions are:

- Capture – to capture what was already being delivered through the application of legislation, guidance and good practice in design, procurement and construction demonstrating adherence to the desired sustainability outcomes
- Change – to influence areas where we can deliver an improvement in the process and target outcomes might be achievable
- Collaborate – to work with key stakeholders to identify and support delivery of opportunities outcomes that may be presented by the A9 Dualling Programme

4. Monitoring and Review

There will be on-going monitoring and review of the implementation of the Sustainability Delivery Plans and progress towards meeting the Sustainability Objectives.

The monitoring and review process will:

- identify and assess what is being done across the programme to meet the target outcomes
- highlight good practice for sharing
- identify what further actions are required to improve performance to meet target outcomes
- instruct individuals and teams to complete the newly identified actions
- produce a succinct report detailing the changes required and providing rationales

5. Reporting

We will report progress on the work related to the Sustainability Strategy on a regular basis. This reporting will be aligned to key milestones of both individual dualling projects and the overall programme delivery. For example, initially each project will produce an interim sustainability statement at the end of Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) design Stage 2.

Once all projects have completed DMRB Stage 2, a programme wide report can be produced which will aggregate performance across projects. Further updates on sustainability will be produced as the design work is stepped up across the dualling programme.

We will look to report on progress using a number of formats including:

- An infographic which visually displays performance in an attractive and interesting format. This will display headlines of performance achievements only.
- A Sustainability Statement which details the actions that have been taken to deliver sustainability through the A9 Dualling programme and demonstrates the wider contribution the programme is making to Scotland. It will include a range of case studies providing a narrative on the actions taken.
- Updates to the A9 Dualling website on sustainability work and showcasing case studies that tell the story of the actions taken to realise the outcomes.
- Highlighting any positive A9 Dualling sustainability stories through various Transport Scotland communication tools including news releases and Transport Scotland's social media outlets.



© Crown copyright 2016

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/> or e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

