



## KEY ISSUES

Accessibility and local economic impact STAG appraisal of station reopening.

Consideration of access to work, healthcare and social opportunities as key local priorities after consultation.

Using DHC's advanced accessibility modelling techniques to develop robust evidence base for decision-making.

## ABOUT DHC

Derek Halden Consultancy staff and associates have leading expertise in transport planning, community development, psychology, transport and accessibility modelling, social inclusion, marketing, environmental assessment, and economic development.

Common to all projects is a commitment to draw from state of the art knowledge to ensure that solutions are soundly based and tailored to the needs of clients.

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# LAURENCEKIRK STATION REOPENING – STAG PART 2 APPRAISAL

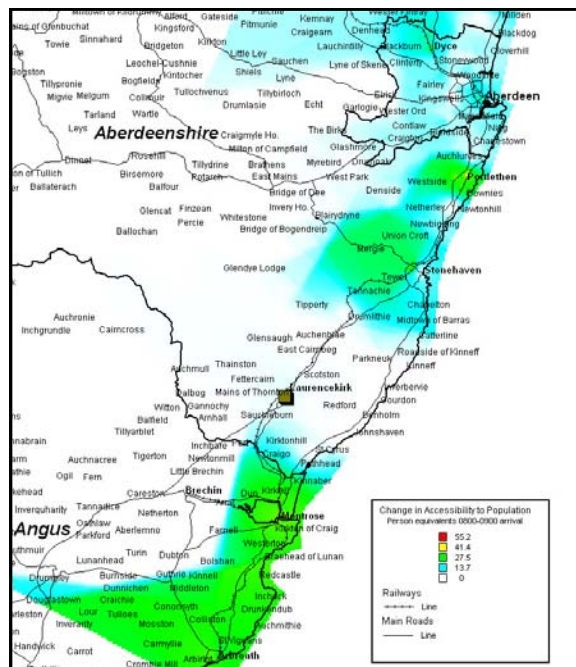
There has been a longstanding aspiration to re-open a railway station at Laurencekirk in rural south Aberdeenshire and this is supported by the local authority strategies, plans and policies currently in place. These generally encourage the use of public transport and seek to link rural commuters to centres of employment and other economic activity.

DHC assisted Scott Wilson in undertaking the accessibility and local economic impact analysis aspects of Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) for proposals to re-open this station and introduce stops on the Glasgow – Aberdeen service.

STAG is now the appraisal approach required for all nationally funded or supported transport projects in Scotland. DHC were involved in the development of the accessibility and social inclusion aspects of the Scottish Executive guidance (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/transport/stag-00.asp>). The Laurencekirk work provided an opportunity to apply these techniques in a practical and high profile example.

Detailed analysis and calculation of accessibility indicators was undertaken using DHC's Accalc model with transport routing technology from Automatica Ltd.

By appraising accessibility impacts, particularly access to work, healthcare and social opportunities and through community engagement work, DHC has been able to deliver robust appraisals which should help deliver optimal solutions for Laurencekirk. DHC also established the locational economic impacts of reintroducing passenger rail services at this station which was closed in 1967.



Change in Accessibility to population centres from Laurencekirk, arrival between 0800-0900