

ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World

ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE

16 JUNE, 2017

Present: Councillors P J Argyle, J Gifford, and R Thomson (Aberdeenshire Council);

Councillors M Boulton, G Graham (as substitute for Cllr J Laing) and D Lumsden (Aberdeen City Council); and

Professor S Logan, Mr P Machray and Sir Ian Wood; (ONE).

Apologies: Cllr J Laing, Aberdeen City Council.

In attendance: J Crow and Professor von Prondzynski, ONE; A Scott, Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council; S Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services, Aberdeenshire Council, B Miller, Head of Economic Development and Protected Services, Aberdeenshire Council; A Wood, Head of Finance, Aberdeenshire Council; R O'Hare, Principal Solicitor (Democratic Services), Aberdeenshire Council; J P Cleary, Senior Programme Manager, Programme Management Office, Aberdeen City Council; Wendy Robertson, Digital Programme Manager, Aberdeen City Council and J McRobbie, Committee Officer, Aberdeenshire Council.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mr Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services, Aberdeenshire Council took the Chair, welcoming everyone to the first meeting, post-election, of the City Region Deal Joint Committee. The first item of business was the appointment of a Chair for the joint committee and, having heard from the Director of Infrastructure Services that the Chair and Vice Chair rotated between the two Councils, Councillor Lumsden moved, seconded by Sir Ian Wood, that Councillor Gifford, of Aberdeenshire Council, Chair the Joint Committee for the City Region Deal. There being no further nominees, the Committee **agreed** that Councillor Gifford be appointed Chair.

Cllr Gifford took the Chair and called for nominations for the appointment of Vice Chair for the City Region Deal Joint Committee.

Councillor Argyle moved, seconded by Councillor Bolton, that Councillor Laing, of Aberdeen City Council, be nominated as Vice Chair. Having been advised that Councillor Laing had indicated her willingness to accept the nomination, if made, and there being no further nominations, the Committee **agreed** that Councillor Laing be appointed Vice Chair of the City Region Deal Joint Committee.

2. APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBERS AND SUBSTITUTES

In terms of the requirement for the nominations from ONE to be confirmed, the Committee **noted** that the ONE representatives on the Joint City Region Board would remain as previously as undernoted: Sir Ian Wood, Mr Pat Machray, and Professor Stephen Logan as substantive members, with Mrs Jennifer Crow, Mr Colin Crosby, and Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski as substitute members.

3. SEDERUNT AND DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Apologies intimated in respect of Councillor Laing, Aberdeen City Council.

In terms of declaration of interest, in respect of item 12, Bio Therapeutics Hub for Innovation Business Case, Sir Ian Wood and Pat Machray declared an interest as ONE representatives however considered their interest to be remote and insignificant therefore they would take part in the item. Professor Stephen Logan declared an interest as a ONE representative and Chairman of the ONE Life Sciences Board and confirmed he would not take part in the item however would remain to answer questions on the report if required in his capacity as Chairman of the ONE Life Sciences Board.

4. RESOLUTIONS

(A) Public Sector Equality Duty

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of The Equality Act, 2010;-

- (1) To have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) Foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) Where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its content and take this into account when reaching a decision.

(B) Exempt Information

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Sections 50A (4) and (5) of The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of items 11 and 12, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

5. MINUTE OF MEETING OF CITY REGION DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF 17 MARCH, 2017

The Joint Committee had before them and **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of the Joint Committee of 17 March, 2017.

6. CITY REGION DEAL PROGRESS UPDATE

There had been circulated a report by the Senior Programme Manager, providing an update on the City Region Deal (CRD) and its constituent works. Having heard further from the Senior Programme Manager on the milestones of progress against the plan, and the timing of the future work plan schedule, the Joint Committee **agreed** to note the updates provided.

7. DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

There had been circulated a report by Simon Haston, Head of IT and Transformation, Aberdeen City Council, providing an update on the digital infrastructure projects within the innovation theme of the Aberdeen City Region Deal. The Joint Committee heard from Wendy Robertson, Digital Programme Manager, Aberdeen City Council, of the two work strands: (a) White area in-fill and (b) the duct network proposals, as approved by the Joint Committee in the business cases presented on 20 January 2017. It was reported that the

duct network strand had already begun, to extend and enhance existing Council owned duct network to facilitate the efficient delivery of services and ensure economic and social gains, with implementation due to begin in August 2018. The initial timescales for the white area in-fill (to address known gaps in the market by procuring ultrafast connectivity to service businesses and residential premises in the Aberdeen Housing Market Area), were dependant on agreement with the Scottish Government's development of a new national broadband initiative, R100. This national conductivity project sought to provide a minimum of 30Mbps connectivity to every premise in Scotland and the project had had, and would continue to have, an impact on the delivery schedule of the white area in-fill project.

There was discussion of whether elements of the white area infill work could be undertaken, independently, and in preparation for, R100 and clarification was sought as to whether the funds allocated by the Scottish Government for the white area in-fill were to be subsumed within the R100 project.

Officers advised that the Scottish Government were currently progressing an approach for project procurement. When this was known, it would be determined whether City Region Deal funds could be adapted to R100 programme. Concerns were expressed at the additional timescale delays implications of aligning with R100. The Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) That officers look at other possibilities to address the white area in-fill, in addition to continuing to work alongside the Scottish Government on R100;
- (2) That, if need be, officers consider an urgent method of submitting an update report on digital connectivity progress to members of the Joint Committee in between formal meetings of the committee; and
- (3) In all other respects, to note the terms of the update.

8. TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

There had been circulated a report dated 6 June, 2017, by the Strategic Transport Projects Manager, Aberdeenshire Council, providing the Joint Committee an update on the strategic transport appraisal elements of the City Region Deal. The report provided an update on the (a) investment unlocked across all modes of transport, including rail, of £7M funding, with £5M coming from UK and Scottish governments and £2M from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils; (b) the workings of the Transport Working Group, meeting approximately 6 weekly co-led by the CRD Transportation Work Team Lead and Transport Scotland, potentially aligning the strategic appraisal's emerging outcomes with the parallel work on the national transport strategy, through strategic transport projects review, and Nestran's Regional Transport Strategy, as well as future strategic land use plans; (c) the work programme's first deliverable, to undertaken in accordance with Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG), being an interim update of the regional transport model, and the Aberdeen Sub Area Model (ASAM), due for completion in June 2017 to provide a current year and future year forecast of pressures on the Regional Transport Network, taking into account committed infrastructure and other developments with a further update to be progressed following an extensive traffic and transport data collection exercise on the completion of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR); and (d) the Strategic Transport Appraisal, with the brief for the commissioning of the pre-appraisal element having been developed by the CRD Transport Working Group, with the work to commence during 2017 and be complete towards the end of 2017.

Having heard from officers of the revised financial baseline as detailed in appendix 2 to the report, and key risks, it was noted that a detailed business case for the Strategic Transport Appraisal would be submitted to a future meeting of the Joint Committee for consideration.

The Joint Committee **noted** the update provided.

9. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – ORAL UPDATE

At this point in the meeting the Chair, on behalf of the Joint Committee, welcomed Mr Martin McCloskey, of the Scottish Government, to the meeting by conference call.

Mr McCloskey spoke of the £200M allocated toward improving rail networking between Aberdeen and the Central Belt and the Minister's announcement on 17 March, 2017 of the establishment of a dedicated team to address capacity to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire; this would include consideration of options such as double tracking functions and the Montrose viaduct. £24M had been allocated for A9/A937 improvements, with Transport Scotland having appointed design consultants in September 2016. The emerging options in the Stage 2 process would be exposed to public exhibition later in 2017 and a preferred option identified by 2018. This would allow draft orders to be lodged for formal consultation in 2019 and thereafter be advertised for further public comment. These works were being progressed in terms of the partnership between Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, and Angus Councils in order to maximise the benefits of the initiative.

There was discussion as to whether the process of consultation could be accelerated, given that the options had been well known in the public forum for a significant period of time but Mr McCloskey indicated that the normal processes and procedure were bound by statute and accordingly could not be amended. Members asked questions as to whether a standard design of stepped junction could be applied in order to facilitate the programme's advance.

Mr McCloskey advised of infrastructure projects planned to develop housing at Balmedie and Mintlaw, and ongoing bilateral meetings held between the City and Shire with Government officials. In the years 2006/ 2021, the Scottish Government had indicated an additional allocation of £190M to support Council-produced strategic housing investment plans for development.

There was discussion as to whether any spend unutilised at the end of any financial year could be rolled onto future years and Mr McCloskey indicated that was an issue to be raised with the Council finance officers.

The Joint Committee heard from the Director of Infrastructure, Aberdeenshire Council, of joint meetings held between City and Shire and More Homes Scotland where the issue of year end had been raised.

The Joint Committee **agreed** to note the updates provided.

10. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Joint Committee heard from the Senior Programme Manager that whilst dates of 28 July, 8 September, and 10 November, 2017 had previously been agreed for meetings of the Joint Committee, it was proposed that the schedule be amended to be a quarterly meeting, timed in line with the phased reports back to government and financial reporting periods. In addition, as there was no urgent business to be considered in July, it was proposed that the date of 28 July be set aside and the next meeting be 8 September 2017. The Joint Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) That the next meetings be held on 8 September, and 10 November, 2017;
- (2) That officers consider a proposed schedule for 2018 meetings, circulating them for diary availability in early course; and
- (3) To support the move to quarterly meetings, subject to the use of information bulletins to provide updates on urgent matters.

11. CITY REGION DEAL FINANCIAL UPDATE 2016/17

There had been circulated a report dated 16 June, 2017 by the Head of Finance, Aberdeenshire Council, and the Senior Programme Manager, Aberdeen City Council, providing an update on the finances of the Aberdeen City Region Deal for the year 2016/17.

Having heard further from officers as to potential spend profiles, the Joint Committee **agreed** to note the update provided.

12. BIO-THERAPEUTICS HUB FOR INNOVATION BUSINESS CASE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 17 March, 2017, (Item 3,) there had been circulated a report dated 16 June, 2017 by Jennifer Crow, ONE, seeking the Joint Committee's approval of the business case for the bio-therapeutics hub for innovation project, within the innovation theme of the Aberdeen City Region Deal and providing details of the proposal. Having heard further Ms Crow and her colleague, Lindsay McKenzie as to the proposals, the Joint Committee **agreed** that the Head of Economic Development intimate to the UK and the Scottish Governments the Joint Committee's endorsement of the business case as detailed in the report.

Councillor Jim Gifford, Chair