

ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World

ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE

29 NOVEMBER, 2017

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

Councillors M Boulton, J Laing, and D Lumsden (Aberdeen City Council); and

Mrs J Craw, Mr P Machray, and Sir Ian Wood; (ONE).

In attendance: J Savege, Chief Executive, Aberdeenshire Council; B Miller, Head of Economic Development and Protected Services, Aberdeenshire Council; R O'Hare, Principal Solicitor (Democratic Services), Aberdeenshire Council; J P Cleary, Senior Programme Manager, Programme Management Office, Aberdeen City Council; S Haston Head of IT and Transformation, Aberdeen City Council; and J McRobbie, Committee Officer, Aberdeenshire Council.

1. SEDERUNT AND DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

2. 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 item 4, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Committee, having heard from the Principal Solicitor in respect of the remote participation of Members under Standing Orders, **agreed** to suspend Standing Order 33 to allow Members attending remotely to participate in the undernoted matter containing confidential and exempt information.

4. CONNECTIVITY UPDATE

There had been circulated a report by Simon Haston, Head of IT and Transformation, Aberdeen City Council, providing an update on an urgent issue relating to connectivity in terms of the innovation theme of the Aberdeen City Region Deal, and seeking approval of a Business case for Digital Infrastructure, to utilise a fifth of the £10M Scottish Government Additional £254M Investment, to extend Aberdeen City Council's wide area network to ultrafast fibre connectivity.

The Joint Committee heard from The Head of IT and Transformation of the opportunities, throughout the City Region which would benefit, directly, or indirectly, if the investment were approved, and of the risks, given that the best outcome would depend on commercial negotiations.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the business case to invest £2M to extend Aberdeen City Council's wide area network to ultrafast broadband;
- (2) to note that formal approval would be required for the business case and the investment from the Scottish Government; and
- (3) that there be a standing item for future meetings of the Committee with an update on digital progress across the region as a whole, including the use of "bundling" to maximise cover opportunities.

Councillor Jim Gifford, Chair