

# ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World

## ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE

12 NOVEMBER, 2021

**Present:** Councillors A Kille, J Cox (substitute for Councillor Argyle), and G Petrie (Aberdeenshire Council);

Councillors M Boulton, R Houghton and J Laing (Aberdeen City Council); and

Professor G Boyne, Mrs J Craw and Sir I Wood (ONE).

**Apologies:** Councillor P Argyle.

**Officers:** Aberdeenshire Council – Mr A Wood, Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, Mr P Macari, Head of Service, Planning & Environment, Ms M Beattie, Head of Finance, Ms S Rochester, Service Manager, Ms A Gibbs, Principal Solicitor, Ms A McLeod, Committee Officer

Aberdeen City Council – Mr R Sweetnam, Chief Officer, City Growth, Ms J Richards Wood, Programme Manager, Ms A Gray, PMO Support Officer, Ms W Robertson, Digital Lead, Mr A MacKay, Team Leader, Roads Projects.

**In attendance:** Mr P Finch and Mr R Dickson, NESTRANS; Mr D Briody, Transport Scotland; Mr J Dunshea, Network Rail.

### 1. SEDERUNT AND DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Apologies were intimated in respect of Councillor Argyle, Aberdeenshire Council.

Sir I Wood, Mrs Craw, Councillor Kille and Professor Boyne, declared an interest in items 5 and 9, specifically in terms of any issues affecting Opportunity North East (ONE) or the new Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) which may arise in the discussion, by virtue of them being Board Members of ONE. They considered that the nature of their interest did not require them to leave the meeting during consideration of the items.

### 2. RESOLUTIONS

(A) Public Sector Equality Duty - In making decisions on the following items of business, the Joint 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.

(B) Exempt Information - The Joint 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 9 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. MINUTE OF MEETING OF CITY REGION DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF 20 AUGUST, 2021**

The Joint Committee had before it and **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of the Joint Committee of 20 August, 2021.

#### **4. APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBERS**

Mrs Craw, ONE, advised the Joint Committee Professor George Boyne had been appointed as a substantive member of the Joint Committee, representing ONE, and that he would replace Professor Stephen Logan. In addition, Mr Stanley Morris would take the role of substitute member and a further substitute member would be advised once confirmed. The Chair welcomed Professor Boyne and Mr Morris to the membership.

#### **5. ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Joint Committee had before it and **noted** a report dated 12 November, 2021 by the Programme Manager, which provided information on the progress of the City Region Deal and its constituent workstreams, through the body of the report and Appendix 1 – Project Updates.

In respect of the proposed Transport Links to Aberdeen South Harbour, some concerns were expressed in relation to the timescales for completion, in light of additional Business Case approvals which were required by Scottish Government, and acknowledging that the Transport Links were key requirements for the Aberdeen South Harbour and Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) initiatives. The need to expedite the process and to provide a clear programme, including any areas of potential acceleration and contingency, to ensure the earliest possible completion of the project was noted and acknowledged by officers.

#### **6. DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FULL BUSINESS CASE UPDATE**

There had been circulated a report dated 12 November, 2021 by the Head of Service, Planning and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council, providing an update on the timescales for presenting the Digital Infrastructure full business case.

The Joint Committee heard from Mr Macari, Head of Planning & Environment, who advised the Joint Committee that following receipt of the R100 premise level data from Scottish Government, and after analysis of the data, a detailed options appraisal would be undertaken, to allow the business case to be completed, and a further report would be provided in May 2022.

Thereafter, the Joint Committee **agreed** to note that the timescales for the Digital Infrastructure Full Business Case would be May 2022, and information from the Scottish Government on the R100 premise level data as relevant to the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire area, was now available, which would enable the full business case to be completed.

## **7. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT UPDATE – TRANSPORT PROJECTS**

The Joint Committee had before it a report dated 12 November, 2021 by NESTRANS providing an update on the progress of projects being taken forward through the additional Scottish Government investment announced alongside the Aberdeen City Region Deal. The report covered progress on the A90/A937 Laurencekirk Junction Improvement Scheme and the investment in the rail network to improve services between Aberdeen and the Central Belt.

The Joint Committee heard from Transport Scotland Officers of aspects of the projects, which were linked, or complimentary to ongoing work of the City Region Deal, highlighting progress of the projects and timescales for progression. The officers responded to questions from Members around timescales; design issues; the emerging use of hydrogen; opportunities being explored for further development in terms of the decarbonisation agenda, and the potential for further dialogue between Transport Scotland and officers from the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub.

Thereafter, the Joint Committee **noted** the terms of the report.

## **8. PROPOSED DATES FOR JOINT COMMITTEE FOR 2022/23**

The proposed dates for future meetings of the Joint Committee for 2022/23 were submitted and the Joint Committee **agreed** the following dates:

04 February 2022 (previously agreed);  
27 May, 2022;  
9 September, 2022;  
25 November, 2022;  
3 February, 2023.

## **9. BIO HUB**

The Joint Committee noted an update by Mrs Craw on ongoing discussions in relation to progress with and funding arrangements for the Bio Hub Aberdeen Project.

Councillor Andy Kille, Chair