

At a MEETING of the **TAY CITIES REGION JOINT COMMITTEE** held remotely on Friday 22nd January, 2021.

Present: -

Angus Council

Councillor Bill DUFF
Councillor David FAIRWEATHER
Councillor Angus MACMILLAN DOUGLAS

Dundee City Council

Councillor John ALEXANDER
Councillor Lynne SHORT
Councillor Richard McCREADY

Fife Council

Councillor David ROSS
Councillor Karen MARJORAM
Councillor Tim BRETT

Perth & Kinross Council

Councillor Murray LYLE
Councillor John DUFF
Councillor Grant LAING

Non-Elected Members

Michael WRIGHT, Scottish Enterprise
Gordon MCGUINNESS, Skills Development Scotland
Councillor Andrew PARROTT, TACTRAN
Alison HENDERSON, Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce
Nigel SEATON, University of Abertay

Also Present

Greg COLGAN, Dundee City Council
Robin PRESSWOOD, Dundee City Council
Steve GRIMMOND, Fife Council
Margo WILLIAMSON, Angus Council
Vivian SMITH, Angus Council
Mark SPEED, TACTRAN
Barbara RENTON, Perth and Kinross Council
David LITTLEJOHN, Perth and Kinross Council
Alison SEGGIE, Angus Council
Roger MENNIE, Tay Cities Deal Legal Officer
Sandy FLIGHT, Dundee City Council
Mike BOYLE, Tay Cities Deal Comms
Alan DOBSON, Tay Cities Deal Project Manager
Lauren HOLLAS, Tay Cities Deal Project Officer
Mo SAUNDERS, Tay Cities Deal Programme Manager

Councillor John ALEXANDER, in the Chair.

I APOLOGIES

Apologies had been intimated from Ellis Watson, Hayley Mearns, Keith Winter Steve Bell and Karen Reid.

II DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

III MINUTE OF MEETING OF 11TH DECEMBER, 2020

The minute of meeting of 11th December, 2020 was submitted and approved.

IV CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Joint Committee was required to appoint a Chair from Dundee Council and Vice Chair from Angus Council for 2021/2022.

It was agreed that Councillor John Alexander of Dundee City Council be appointed as Convener and Councillor David Fairweather of Angus Council be appointed as Vice Convener.

V TAY CITIES DEAL UPDATE

A presentation by Programme Manager, Mo Saunders, was given to the Joint Committee outlining the current position with regards to the Tay Cities Deal.

The Deal had been signed by the Partnership and Governments on 17th December, 2020. The financial year 20/21 is the first year of formal delivery. The Deal entered into was secured as a ten-year programme which would greatly assist the delivery of projects.

It was noted that the Partnership had entered into a commitment for a £300m programme which would create over 6000 jobs and could result in over £400m of investment, as supported by the Deal documentation.

The commitment also includes a programme of reporting to commence from January, 2021. Reporting updates will be shared with the Joint Committee at regular intervals along with the Annual Performance Report.

Members were informed that the following Business Cases have secured Government and Management Group approval to move forward to Full Business Case submission:

- TCD005 & TCD006 Rural Angus and Perth and Kinross Highspeed Broadband
- TCD010 JHI Advanced Plant Growth Centre
- TCD011 JHI International Barley Hub
- TCD017 Perth Cultural Transformation (incl Perth City Hall)
- TCD013 cyberQuarter

All Full Business Cases (FBC) will be presented to the Joint Committee for approval in due course.

A brief question and answer session followed after which the Joint Committee thanked Ms Saunders both for her presentation and also for the commitment to achieving the compression of the Deal.

VI CYBERQUARTER

A presentation was given to the Joint Committee by Lorna Edwards, Head of Business Development, Abertay University.

The creation of a cyberQuarter would see the Tay Cities Region established as a centre of applied research and development and knowledge exchange in cybersecurity. And would exploit the University of Abertay's distinctive ethical hacking and offensive cyber security knowledge.

It was envisioned that the cyberQuarter would deliver:-

- Collaborative research and development with the cyber security industry to develop solutions that would improve cyber security amongst small and medium businesses
- Develop ethical hacking and offensive security activities to upskill workers and tackle local and national skill shortages
- Support business to raise awareness of cybersecurity risks and to increase the adoption of new products and services to become more cyber resilient and
- Deliver jobs growth in cybersecurity form, from start-ups to large corporations, as new products and services were developed and commercialised.

An overview was given of elements of investment for the project and the way in which it would be delivered.

Thereafter, the Chair, on behalf of the Joint Committee, thanked Ms Edwards for the interesting and informative presentation.

XI DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday, 19th February, 2021, to be held remotely.

John ALEXANDER, Chair.