

ITEM No ...4.....

At a MEETING of the **TAY CITIES REGION JOINT COMMITTEE** held remotely on Friday, 17th September, 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 Tim BRETT
Councillor Karen MARJORAM

Perth & Kinross Council

Councillor Murray LYLE
Councillor Colin STEWART

Non-Elected Members

Councillor Andrew PARROTT, TACTRAN
Alison HENDERSON, Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce
Ronnie PALIN for Michael WRIGHT, Scottish Enterprise
Hayley MEARNS, Third Sector

Also Present

Greg COLGAN, Dundee City Council
Robert EMMOTT, Dundee City Council
Gregor HAMILTON, Dundee City Council
Paul THOMSON, Dundee City Council
Margo WILLIAMSON, Angus Council
Vivien SMITH, Angus Council
Rory YOUNG, Angus Council
Keith WINTER, Fife Council
Mark SPEED, TACTRAN
Barbara RENTON, Perth and Kinross Council
David LITTLEJOHN, Perth and Kinross Council
Roger MENNIE, Tay Cities Deal Legal Officer
Mike BOYLE, Tay Cities Deal Comms
Lorna EDWARDS, Abertay University
Julie CRAIK, Dundee City Council
Kris BRYCE, Pitlochry Festival Theatre
Cheryl TORANO, cyberQuarter
Clare SLATER, Tay Cities Deal Project Manager
Mo SAUNDERS, Tay Cities Deal Programme Manager
Lauren HOLLAS, Tay Cities Project Officer

Councillor John ALEXANDER, in the Chair.

I APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been intimated from Councillor Grant Laing of Perth and Kinross Council, Nigel Seaton of Abertay University, Michael Wright of Scottish Enterprise, Gordon McGuinness of Skills Development Scotland and Robin Presswood of Dundee City Council.

It was noted that Councillor Colin Stewart had replaced Councillor John Duff as a member on the Joint Committee.

II DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Richard McCready declared a non-financial interest in the item of business at Article VII by virtue of his Council appointment as a Director of Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre.

III MINUTE OF MEETING OF 18TH JUNE, 2021

The minute of meeting of 18th June, 2021 was submitted and approved.

IV TAY CITIES REGION 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 Region Deal, a copy of which is attached to this minute as Appendix I.

The updated Business Cases timetable was tabled, along with a timeline for their submission to the Joint Committee for approval. It was noted that all projects were on schedule for this financial year. It was noted that the skills programme which was initially scheduled to be tabled in September outlining the governance pathway for projects would now be submitted to the December meeting.

In conclusion, an update was given advising that the Grant offer for 2021/2022 had been agreed with a total Year 2 Capital drawdown of £40.832m and Revenue Profile drawdown of £1.650m. This included Accelerated Capital Funding of £9m from the profile agreed at Deal signing. The Delivery of the Programme would be challenging, with a current underspend of £7.740% being forecast. The Programme was currently being monitored and managed within the Partnership governance and through regular reporting and dialogue with both governments. Information was also provided on the Annual Report and it was explained that the purpose of the Annual Performance Report was to provide a summary of progress over the period of the report and a look at the key milestones in the Deal for the year ahead. The Programme Manager had received confirmation from both Governments of the Tay Cities Region Deal Annual Performance Report requirements and dates. The Annual Performance Report would cover the end of Q2 (2020/2021) to the end of the Q2 (2021/2022). A first draft was required to be submitted to the Governments by the 15th of December 2021 with a final agreed version to be completed by the end of March 2022.

On behalf of the Joint Committee the Chair thanked Ms Saunders for her presentation.

V TAY CITIES REGION DEAL – AUDITED AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS - VERBAL UPDATE

The Section 95 Officer, Robert Emmott gave a verbal update on the position in relation to the Audited and Unaudited Annual Accounts.

It was noted that the Accounts were available on the website. Audit Scotland provided External Audit Services to the Joint Committee and they would report in due course.

VI TAY CITIES REGION DEAL – BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE FOR APPROVAL

(i) TCD007 5G DIGITAL TESTBEDS

There was submitted Report No TCRJC13-2021 by Robin Presswood, Executive Director of City Development, Dundee City Council seeking approval for Business Justification Case (BJC) for TCD007 5G Digital Testbeds.

A joint presentation was given to the Joint Committee by Gregor Hamilton, Management Group Sponsor Representative and the Project Lead Officers Rory Young and Julie Craik, a copy of which is attached to this minute as Appendix II.

The Joint Committee agreed: -

- (i) to consider the report and the BJC for TCD007 5G Digital Testbeds. (An Executive Summary was contained at Appendix 2 of the report and the full BJC would be available on request via Sharefile);
- (ii) to note the changes in outputs since deal signing and the rationale for these which were outlined in section 6 of the report; and
- (iii) to approve the BJC subject to final joint Government approval.

The Joint Committee further agreed to note that a briefing session on progress would also be arranged for the members of the Joint Committee

VII TAY CITIES REGION DEAL – PRESENTATION BY PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE

A presentation was given by Project Lead Kris Bryce, Executive Director of Pitlochry Festival Theatre providing an update in relation to the Pitlochry Festival Theatre Project, a copy of which is attached to this minute as Appendix III.

Background to the Theatre was provided together with key milestones since its establishment in 1951. Work had commenced in 2021 on a second performance space as part of a larger redevelopment project. Work undertaken over the Covid Period was outlined together with activities programmed and scheduled since the reopening of the Ampitheatre. Many productions had been planned and scheduled attracting audiences from outwith the area and from a variety of age groups and backgrounds contributing to tourism within the region. Innovative activities such as the Digital Audio Theatre were outlined.

Renovation works at the Theatre were developed with support from outside agencies and stakeholder engagement was explained. The initial phase of works enabling future business operation continuity were commenced in 2020. These works would create more public space for activity and engagement. Facilities were also being upgraded.

In conclusion the next steps of redevelopment would involve the completion of Phase 1 works allowing for the reopening of the Theatre Building, the development of the Full Business Case with Tay Cities. A public fundraising appeal would also be launched. There was also substantial investment being provided from the Tay Cities Deal and privately pledged. Phase 2 of construction would commence in 2023.

On behalf of the Joint Committee the Chair thanked Mr Bryce for his presentation.

VIII TAY CITIES REGION DEAL – CYBERQUARTER UPDATE

A joint presentation was given by Project Lead Lorna Edwards, Head of Business Development, Abertay University and Cheryl Torano, Business Development Manager for cyberQuarter providing an update in relation to the CyberQuarter Project.

It was reported that NHS Scotland's cybersecurity agency was the first tenant to be confirmed for the new cyberQuarter research and development hub at Abertay University in Dundee.

This would bring around 30 highly skilled cybersecurity jobs to the city. The team from NHS NSS (National Services Scotland) would take up office accommodation in the cyberQuarter when the building on Abertay University's Bell Street campus opened early 2022, providing cybersecurity operations to cover all of Scotland's health services.

The cyberQuarter was designed to attract new and existing cybersecurity firms to the region and was funded through the Tay Cities Deal and the new jobs were the first positions to be announced since the Deal was signed. The cyberQuarter would also support the creation of new companies, boost the security and resilience of the Scottish business community and facilitate the creation of new products and services through innovation-led research.

The Scottish Government had committed up to £6 million and the UK Government up to £5.7 million to the project, with Abertay University the other main funder.

As part of their tenancy, NHS NSS would invite Abertay cybersecurity students to gain work experience alongside their staff, ensuring valuable hands-on industry experience for the students and access to the very best graduate talent for the organisation.

It was expected that other cybersecurity organisations would either locate in the cyberQuarter or take up flexible working spaces in the building as the project rolled out, with some negotiations already underway.

Further awareness of cyber security was being expanded through visits to schools.

On behalf of the Joint Committee the Chair thanked Ms Edwards and Ms Torano for their presentation.

IX AOCB

The Joint Committee noted that there were no other matters which required to be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee.

X DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Joint Committee noted that the next meeting of the Joint Committee would be held remotely on Friday, 10th December, 2021.

John ALEXANDER, Chair.