

# ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World

<b>Report Name</b>	Scottish Government letter to Deals
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<b>Date of Report</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
<b>Governance</b>	City Region Deal Joint Committee

<b>1:</b>	<b>Purpose of the Report</b>
i.	To update the Joint Committee on the UK/SG communication in response to COVID19, including the attached letter.

<b>2:</b>	<b>Recommendations for Action</b>
i.	It is recommended that the Joint Committee notes the content of the attached letter from Scottish Government.
ii.	That Joint Committee instructs the Chair of ACRD Programme Board to continue discussions with UK/SG on the impact of COVID19 to keep the Deal delivering and progressing in line with the Region's priorities.
iii.	To instruct Digital Programme Lead to report to Joint Committee in September with a proposal to maximise the Digital Resource in response to the current pandemic.
iv.	To instruct the CRD Programme Manager to report to Joint Committee in December with a Benefits Realisation Plan that reflects the impact of COVID 19.

<b>3:</b>	<b>Summary of Key Information</b>
Key points from the attached UK/SG letter:	
i.	COVID-19 has created unprecedented pressures and is rapidly changing priorities.
ii.	UK/SG governments remain fully committed to the city region and growth deals programme across Scotland,
iii.	UK/SG will continue to work in partnership with Aberdeen to respond effectively and decisively as we move into the recovery phase.
iv.	Both governments are keen to understand what action is required to keep the Aberdeen deal moving forward and support the economy of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

<b>3:</b>	<b>Summary of Key Information</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v. The Scottish City Region Deal Delivery Board met on the 28<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the feedback they had received to date from all Deals</li> </ul> <p>Communication with Scottish Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Chair of the City Region Deal Programme Board has attended two meetings hosted by SG Deputy Director for Regional Economic Development.</li> <li>ii. The SG have confirmed that rollover of funding will be possible, and a letter of confirmation will be sent to the Chair of ACRD Programme Board.</li> </ul> <p>At Programme Board on 20/05/20, the Board considered the following areas as priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. An update report on the Digital Programme, to reflect the need for high speed digital connectivity and inclusion.</li> <li>ii. A further discussion with Scottish Government on the Housing MOU funding, considering COVID19 and the need to align to regional needs.</li> <li>iii. Flexibility on reporting, especially in relation to profiling milestones and draw down of funding, due to 'unknowns'.</li> <li>iv. To review the impact on the outlined Benefits in the Deal document of 2016, as they relate to GVA and jobs, now impacted substantially due to COVID19</li> <li>v. For projects to Identify and report any additional costs to projects due to slippage.</li> </ul>

<b>4:</b>	<b>Finance and Risk</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. No direct financial or risk implications.</li> </ul>