

ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World

Report Name	Aberdeen City Region Deal Quarterly Progress Update
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Date of Meeting	5 th February 2021
Governance	City Region Deal Joint Committee

1:	Purpose of the Report
To update the Joint Committee on the progress of the City Region Deal and its constituent workstreams, through the body of the report and Appendix A – Quarterly Progress Report	

2:	Recommendations for Action
It is recommended that the Joint Committee:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Notes the content of the report, its appendices, and the progress made.ii. Approves the Committee Dates for 2021/22 outlined in section 3.1 below	

3:	Summary of Key Information
3.1 Dates for 2021/22 <p>The Programme Management Office circulated to regional partners proposed dates for Joint Committee in-line with the reporting process outlined in the Grant Offer Letter. Partners agreed the following dates: 14th May; 20th August; 12th November 2021; also 4th February 2022 all commencing at 9.30am.</p>	
3.2 Annual Review of the Joint Committee Standing Orders <p>A review of the Standing Orders has been undertaken and it was noted at Programme Board that no changes are required at this time.</p>	
3.3 Annual Conversation <p>Regional Partners met with the UK and SG in December for the Aberdeen City Region Deal Annual Conversation. The UK/SG noted the progress of the projects and the benefits for the region that are now being realised due to the Deals investment. The following matters were discussed and noted:</p>	
<u>Financial Management</u> <p>The UK/SG budgets are-capped, with younger deals being asked to develop flat profiles. With more deals coming online, any approval of a request for reprofiling underspend is dependent upon how other deals have performed and therefore any approval will be subject to what is available within the capped deal programme budget. It is therefore not guaranteed that it will be a year of choice. Any reprofile will be subject to agreement with both Governments and will involve discussion.</p> <p>The Programme Board discussed the end of year financial position and this is presented in the financial papers. The above is logged as an open risk in the Programme Risk Log and continues to be monitored with SG.</p>	
<u>Benefits Realisation</u> <p>The UK/SG recommended a Benefits Realisation plan that addresses:</p>	

3:	Summary of Key Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Aberdeen City Region Deal is performing against delivery plans, as set out in the approved programme, project business cases and overall Deal objectives set out in the Deal Document; and, • What economic, social and other impacts may be generated as a result within the Region, Scotland and elsewhere in the UK. <p>The Benefits Realisation Group have met at the beginning of January to begin compiling this plan, capturing the significant benefits and additionality that the Deal has brought to the region to date.</p> <p>3.4 OGTC Check Point Review</p> <p>The OGTC Check Point Review took place in December 2020, and a presentation was given to UK/SG on the work to date and strategic direction. The discussion focussed on the OGTC’s plans to attract future funding and a new set of targets for the year ahead are to be agreed.</p> <p>3.5 Aberdeenshire Council Internal Audit of Aberdeen City Region Deal</p> <p>The objective of this audit was to ensure adequate controls to protect the interests of Aberdeenshire Council, as Accountable Body, are in place. The report notes that in general, this is the case. It recommends an update on the Benefits Realisation Plan and Change Request Process once information from the SG was provided to Deals. It also notes the risk highlighted above for Finance.</p> <p>The report was presented and approved at Aberdeenshire’s Audit Committee on 10 December 2020.</p> <p>3.6 Risk and Issues</p> <p>The Programme Board noted the progress that is being made in all projects despite the challenges during COVID19. The amber time status for the projects currently in implementation phase reflects the uncertainty around further COVID restrictions and the impact this may have on future milestones.</p> <p>3.7 MOU</p> <p>An ‘Information Update’ relating to the Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail was circulated to Joint Committee members in January 2021</p> <p>3.8 Workstream updates</p> <p>Updates on the progress of individual workstreams and projects are contained in the Programme Dashboard in Appendix A.</p>	

4:	Finance and Risk
<p>i. There are no new risks for escalation in this report.</p>	