

# ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World

<b>Report Name</b>	SeedPod Change Request
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<b>Date of Report</b>	9th September 2022
<b>Governance</b>	Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee
<b>Exempt</b>	Appendix A to this report is exempt under paragraph 6. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). Information is not exempt if required to be registered under the Companies Act 1985 or similar legislation.

<b>1:</b>	<b>Purpose of the Report</b>
<p>To inform and seek approval from Joint Committee of the changes between the original SeedPod business case, approved in 2019, and the revised Business Case which incorporates the additional costs identified to deliver the SeedPod construction project under current market conditions and gives detail of additional opportunities and benefits responding to the acceleration of a transition to net Zero.</p>	

<b>2:</b>	<b>Recommendations for Action</b>
<p>That the Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Approves the change request (Appendix A Exempt) subject to the additional funding being realised.</li></ul>	

<b>3:</b>	<b>Summary of Key Information</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. The original Food Hub Business Case approved in 2019 is a £21million investment project over ten years. The purpose of the project is to accelerate growth and innovation of existing businesses and start-ups, to build a hub at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) campus at Craibstone, on the outskirts of Aberdeen, to support the sector to evolve and embrace new opportunities. Its combination of facilities,</li></ul>	

<b>3:</b>	<b>Summary of Key Information</b>
	<p>infrastructure, support programmes and connections will make the region a leader in low carbon food production and environmental sustainability, process and product innovation, premium market development and create high-skill green jobs.</p> <p>ii. A refreshed business case has been prepared which incorporates the additional costs identified to deliver the SeedPod construction project under current market conditions. Additional opportunities have also been identified given changes in the Food &amp; Drink sector since original approval.</p> <p>iii. New Activities and Outputs identified and incorporated in the revised business case include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Innovation Space - a multi workspace high specification commercial new product development kitchen capable of producing samples as well as innovating new formulations and packaging with the chefs, food technicians and scientists.</li> <li>➤ High Value Manufacturing Pilot Area - demonstration space to display the latest manufacturing equipment from suppliers and space available to lease to trial equipment and produce first-offline samples in a food safe environment.</li> <li>➤ Demonstration &amp; Showcasing - a kitchen and sampling area that enables companies to showcase their products to buyers, consumers as well as enabling high quality photography of their products for e-commerce.</li> <li>➤ Net Zero &amp; Sustainability - lead the development of the route map to net zero for the northeast food and drink industry. Provide and showcase new decarbonisation technology and support companies to develop and deliver their sustainability targets. As well as develop digital technology solutions and digital skills to transform security and transparency in supply chains.</li> <li>➤ Community and Wellbeing - engage with the colleges and schools to inspire the next generation and educate and involve communities in our food supply chains and nutrition.</li> </ul>

<b>4:</b>	<b>Finance and Risk</b>
	<p>i. No additional ACRD funding is requested to deliver the refreshed business case, and the revised business case will be submitted to alternative funders to seek the additional funding for the revised capital cost.</p>