

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

COMMITTEE	Enterprise Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee
DATE	13 March 2014
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	The Scottish Cities Alliance -Delivering Scotland's Cities Strategy
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/14/038

---

### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update to committee as to how the Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA) in its second year has been progressing in delivering Scotland's Cities Strategy, 'Scotland Cities Delivering for Scotland' (The Cities Strategy).

### 2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee -

- a. Notes this paper, and
- b. Approves that officers and elected members continue to support the activities of the Scottish Cities Alliance.
- c. Approves further three year funding of £15,000 per calendar year to 2018.

### 3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Scottish Government has allocated £7 million fund aimed at promoting economic growth in Scotland's cities as part of its Cities Strategy. The funds have been applied to collaborative programmes to deliver outcomes which are consistent to the Cities. The major funded projects have been focussed on Scottish Cities' investment and creating the conditions for investment.
- 3.2 Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has led on the Scottish Cities Hydrogen Economy Strategy receiving in the region of £50,000 in the 2013-2014 financial year and will receive a budget of £68,000 to host a one year fixed term G14 Project Manager to deliver the Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA) Hydrogen Strategy and coordinate the SCA's collaborative Hydrogen Feasibility Study

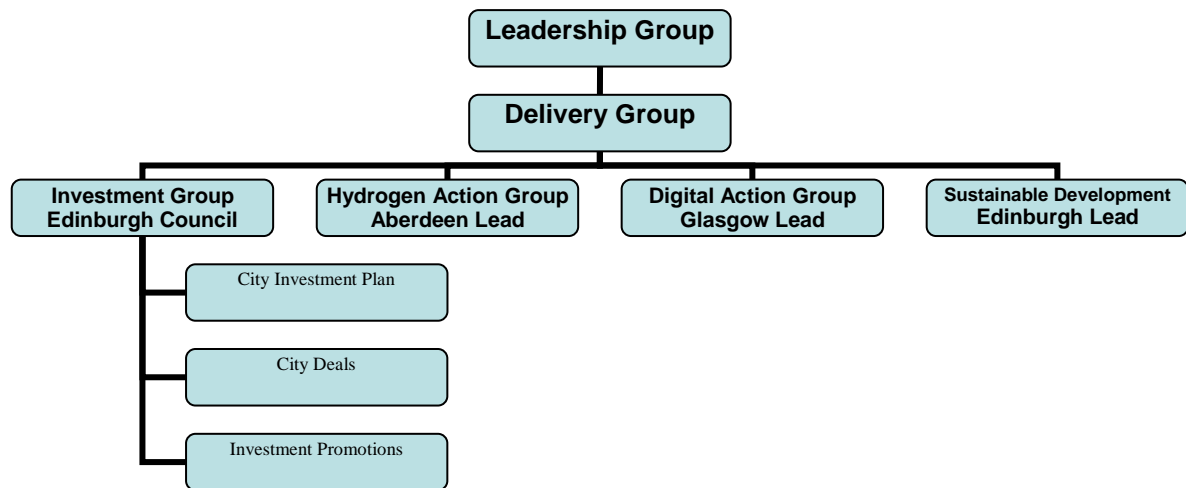
with the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertakings (FCH JU) for a year.

#### 4 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Cities Strategy recognises the contribution of cities and their regions to deliver the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy. The Cities Strategy is consistent with current Council policy and priorities. The Cities Strategy supports the priorities within Aberdeen City's Single Outcome Agreement, in particular, the potential to: anchor the oil and gas industry in Aberdeen; Diversify Aberdeen's economy; ensure high quality business locations and support the attraction and the retention of skilled workers.
- 4.2 Similarly, the fund also supports the Council's Smarter Aberdeen Administration policy, in particular by focusing on connectivity, people, skills, investment, infrastructure and advancing innovation in our green energy credentials.
- 4.3 The work with the SCA supports the delivery of ACC's Strategic Infrastructure Plan.

#### 5 MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 On 31 January 2013 this Committee agreed an annual contribution of £15,000 for three years in order to deliver Scotland's Cities Strategy, 'Scotland Cities Delivering for Scotland' through the SCA. The collaboration has seen the development of the SCA's delivery plan.
- 5.2 The SCA's governance structure as outlined below consists of a Leadership Group whose members are the Council leaders and Chief Executives of each City Council and the Depute First Minister. The Cities Delivery Group consists of officers from each city, Scottish Government, Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) and the Director and Secretary of the Scottish Cities Alliance. Action Groups have been established to deliver identified projects. Supporting the SCA is the Scottish Knowledge Centre which is funded and resourced by both Glasgow University and Saint Andrew's University. The Scottish Knowledge Centre aims to act as an expert advisory resource to the Scottish Cities Alliance providing robust academic research and development. The SCKC is to be funded by SCA for specific evidenced based research relevant to the SCA's priorities.



**SCA Governance structure**

- 5.3 The SCA is undertaking a review of its second year of work on 3 February 2014. This coincides with the recent appointment of its new Strategic Director, Stewart Carruth who will lead the next phase of the SCA's collaboration.
- 5.4 The second year has been successful and many lessons have been learned. The SCA has begun to deliver on its strategic implementation plan that builds on these successes whilst undertaking collaborative events and projects to attract investment into our cities and their regions. The implementation plan will have three elements which are attracting investment; creating the conditions and research and development initiatives.
- 5.5 Attracting Investment- builds on the work of the City Investment Programme, in particular, innovative financial instruments and identifying priority investments. The SCA has followed ACC's lead with five of the seven cities undertaking City Investment Plans in a similar way to ACC's Strategic infrastructure Plan. The investment work stream, led by the City of Edinburgh Council, has undertaken a considerable amount of work with investment promotion including taking a collaborative offer to MIPIM (The International Real Estate Show). The Investment stream also includes a work stream involving City Deals being led by Glasgow.
- 5.6 Creating the conditions for economic growth builds on the projects developed in the past year to ensure cities have the type of infrastructure which are important to retain and attract inward investment.
- 5.7 ACC leads the Hydrogen Action Group which has delivered the SCA Hydrogen Economy Strategy. It has been agreed by the SCA that ACC

will lead the further work on the Hydrogen Strategy which will be funded for a year. This will cover the coordination of the SCA Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses Commercialisation Project which is fully funded by the FCH JU. This committee has already approved ACC's participation in this. The Scottish Collaboration involves all cities, all Road Transport Partnership, Transport Scotland and Scottish Government. A Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of reference for each city will need to be signed with the FCH JU. ACC has been given a budget to fund a post and cover travel and other project expenses.

- 5.8 Sustainable Development is the other action group. It is funding a mini Stern Review for each city. This will provide for each city the economic impact of undertaking low carbon projects. A review of this work stream is currently being undertaken as the SCA wishes to ensure that these projects can demonstrate direct economic impact. Much of the projects to date have been on initiatives already undertaken by ACC.
- 5.9 The Digital Action Group has been supportive to the work being undertaken as part of Accelerate Aberdeen. Because Accelerate Aberdeen is being implemented ACC is not currently participating in this initiative as it had done in the past. It is noteworthy that the Action Team has helped ACC with information sharing for the various procurements that will be required.
- 5.10 ACC is also leading on the Nordic Horizon's initiative which has various Nordic experts sharing their expertise. ACC will host the next SCA Delivery Group on 19 March 2013 with a guest speaker from the Nordic Horizons. This also coincides with the Scottish Knowledge Centre's event on 18 March 2014.
- 5.11 The work delivered by the Scottish Knowledge Centre has some successful initiatives in year one, particularly the strategic road map which has facilitated better engagement across the cities.

## 6 IMPACT

Corporate: The contents of the report relate directly to delivering the economic development aspects of the Single Outcome Agreement:

National Outcome 1 – We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe

National Outcome 2 - We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people

Local Outcome – Anchor the Oil and Gas Industry

Local Outcome – Diversification of the Economy

The contents of the report also relate directly to delivering the economic development aspects of the Administration's Smarter Aberdeen vision.

6.2 An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

'Scotland Cities Delivering for Scotland' 2011

8 REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Rita Stephen, Development Manager

[rstephen@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:rstephen@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Phone (52) 2710