

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	17 th August 2016
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Scottish Benefits Agency
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/16/034
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report brings before the Council the response received from the Scottish Government to the Chief Executive's letter regarding the new Scottish Benefits Agency.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council notes the correspondence received from the Scottish Government.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report has no financial implications. Were the Scottish Benefits Agency or any other similar body to be located/relocated in Aberdeen, there would be a benefit to the City's economy.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

This report has no other implications at this point.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At its meeting on 29th June 2016 the Council considered and agreed a motion by Councillor Laing in the following terms:

Council the announcement by the Scottish Government indicating its intention to set up a new Scottish Benefits Agency and the letter written by the Council Leader to the First Minister on this matter.

Council agrees that Aberdeen City is best placed to host these 300 new jobs and urges the Scottish Government to confirm

Aberdeen as its preferred location for this new flagship organisation that will oversee the delivery of benefits in Scotland.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and the First Minister outlining the benefits of locating or relocating any flagship organisation in Aberdeen, providing a copy of her letter to all members, with any replies from the Prime Minister or First Minister going to the August Council meeting for consideration.

The Chief Executive wrote to both the Prime Minister and the First Minister on this matter on 14th July. The correspondence was shared with all members on the same date.

A response from Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities on behalf of the Scottish Government was received on 4th August. The letter is attached to this report for interest.

6. IMPACT

The subject matter of the report relates to the Council's inward investment strategy.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The report deals solely with an exchange of correspondence with the Scottish Government.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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