



Your Ref:  
Our Ref: AS/gjh  
Contact: Angela Scott  
Location: Marischal College  
  
Date: 27 July 2020

Michael Mathieson MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure & Connectivity  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Email: [CabSecTIC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecTIC@gov.scot)

Dear Mr Mathieson

At the Urgent Business Committee on the 30th June leaders from Aberdeen City Council- debated a motion from Councillor Alex Nicol the SNP group Leader at Aberdeen City Council. I enclose a copy of the amendment to the motion which was agreed at Committee.

While Aberdeen Harbour Board is a completely separate entity from Aberdeen City Council, Councillors have been approached by the Harbour Board following the announcement that the contractor for the Aberdeen South Harbour development, Dragados UK, has withdrawn from the contract with effect from 15th June 2020. The Committee were aware that Aberdeen Harbour Board has written to the Scottish Government to ask for the opportunity to explore how business support measures might be applied to reduce the impact COVID-19 will have on the future of the Aberdeen South Harbour expansion project.

The Committee noted the COVID-19 crisis and the public health response to control the virus has already had a detrimental economic impact on Aberdeen and global economies.

The Committee were concerned the impact these challenges may have on the future delivery of the Aberdeen harbour expansion project and the impact this will have on the Scottish economy given the Aberdeen Harbour Extension is estimated to delivery approximately £1billion GVA for the Scottish Economy by 2035.

Councillors noted the Scottish Governments announcement with regard to the £62m to help achieve with our ambitious net zero targets as well as for the proposed Energy Transition Zone.

The Council endorses the Scottish Government's four-step economic plan – response, reset, restart and recover for the Scottish economy post-crisis and the pathway to achieving it, which includes support for near-term growth and employment as part of the pathway. The Committee agreed that if the Scottish

Government are serious about achieving this four-step economic plan then direct financial support measures must be considered by the Scottish Government to ensure the Aberdeen Harbour extension project delivers economic growth and jobs for Aberdeen Scotland and the United Kingdom.

We trust you will consider the approach you have had from Aberdeen Harbour Board and from ourselves and consider making the necessary financial arrangements to secure the viability of this worthwhile project.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area. Two faint circular marks are visible above the box, likely from a stamp or seal.

**Angela Scott**  
Chief Executive

cc Aberdeen Harbour Board

## Item 6.2 - Amendment

### That Committee:

1. Notes Aberdeen Harbour Board are a separate entity from Aberdeen City Council with its own Board of Directors who have autonomous powers to make decisions for Aberdeen Harbour Board without the need to consult Aberdeen City Council;
2. Notes the announcement by Aberdeen Harbour Board that the contractor for the Aberdeen South Harbour development, Dragados UK, has withdrawn from the contract with effect from 15th June 2020;
3. Notes the COVID-19 crisis and the public health response to control the virus has already had a detrimental economic impact on Aberdeen and global economies;
4. Notes Aberdeen Harbour Board has written to the Scottish Government to ask for the opportunity to explore how business support measures might be applied to reduce the impact COVID-19 will have on the future of the Aberdeen South Harbour expansion project;
5. Notes Aberdeen Harbour Board's concern, regarding the impact these challenges may have on the future delivery of the Aberdeen harbour expansion project and the impact this will have on the Scottish economy given the Aberdeen Harbour Extension is estimated to delivery approximately £1billion GVA for the Scottish Economy by 2035;
6. Notes the strategic importance of the Aberdeen South Harbour development as the project is recognised as a cornerstone to the development of Aberdeen as the Energy Transition capital of Europe;
7. Agrees the proposed Energy Transition Zone promotes and bolsters the Scottish Government's four-step economic plan – response, reset, restart and recover for the Scottish economy post-crisis and the pathway to achieving it, which includes support for near-term growth and employment as part of the pathway;
8. Notes the Scottish Government's response to the letter sent by the Chief Executive following the last Urgent Business Committee meeting which stated, amongst other things, that the £62m Scottish Government investment clearly compliments and support the positive ambitions laid out in the Net Zero Vision and corresponding Strategic Infrastructure Plan focussed on Energy. Transition;
9. Notes the Scottish Government welcomes the effort made by the Administration Budget in March 2020 to take carefully planned and deliberate action to contribute to the Scottish Governments net zero targets;
10. Notes the Co-Leaders of the Council and Officials have set up a conference call with the UK government to discuss the Council's Net Zero Vision and corresponding Strategic Infrastructure Plan focussed on Energy Transition; and
11. Instructs the Chief Executive to forward the attached letter to the Scottish Government asking them to explore direct financial support measures for Aberdeen Harbour Board given the difficulties described above, and thereafter upon reply from the Scottish Government to bring a report to the City Growth and Resources Committee, detailing the progress Aberdeen Harbour Board have made in securing funding from the Scottish Government, securing a new contractor, the impact on the

completion date and the wider impact of any delay in delivery of economic growth to the wider UK and local economy.

**Councillor Jennifer Laing**