



Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal – Draft Annual Report 2022

Meeting of Joint Committee 28 March 2023

Agenda Item: 6.3

Executive Summary

This paper provides an update to the Joint Committee members on the draft Annual Report 2022 and the next steps.

Author

Nicole McIntosh, Project Manager (Acting), Regional Programme Management Office (RPMO)

mcintoshni@stirling.gov.uk



Recommendations

Joint Committee members are asked to:

- 1.1. To consider the content of the report and next steps;
- 1.2. To make recommendations for amendment.

Introduction

- The Annual Report for 2022 will cover the last quarter of the 2021/22 financial year, as well as the first three quarters of the 2022/23 financial year.
- The report has been drafted by the RPMO and circulated amongst partners for review, with an initial draft being presented to the Chief Officers Group and Joint Committee in December 2022 and January 2023.
- The report is required to be submitted for review by the two Governments late February.
- Following that approval, the Annual Report will then have to seek final approval by the Joint Committee in March 2023

Drafting of Report

- The completion of the 2021 Annual Report was undertaken just as the new RPMO team were settling into their new roles.
- The consensus was that the creation of the previous year's report was during a time where there was no opportunity to review what other Deal reports contained, in order to determine what approach would offer the most engaging presentation.
- However, leading into the development of the 2022 Annual Report, the RPMO team have had a thorough review of the Annual Reports created by its contemporaries and hope to have taken the most interesting elements from each.
- The expectation is that the 2022 Annual Report will be more visually attractive, whilst offering less heavy text and more infographics, for an easier understanding of the primary points within the report.
- Stirling Council's Graphics colleagues have been drafted in to assist with the design.



Key areas and Contents

- The primary aspects of the 2022 Annual Report will be around the following areas:
 - a. City Region Deal Overview
 - b. Geographical Overview
 - c. Financial Statement
 - d. Deal Governance and Management
 - e. Benefits Realisation
 - f. Progress to Date – SCCRD Programme
 - i. Transport, Connectivity and Low Carbon
 - ii. Innovation
 - iii. Skills and Inclusion Programme
 - iv. Infrastructure
 - v. Culture, Heritage and Tourism Assets
 - vi. Digital
 - g. The Year Ahead

Review and Next Steps

- Feedback has now been sought from all three partner organisations (including project leads), the comms group, Management Group, Chief Officers and Joint Committee members.
- Amendments have been made to reflect the points highlighted and an updated draft of the Annual Report is attached as an appendix.
- The graphic design team at Stirling Council will commence work on the report once the text has received final approval.
- Publication of the report will take place following the Annual Conversation, scheduled for early May 2023.

Appendix

1. DRAFT Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Annual Report 2022.



Stirling &
Clackmannanshire
City Region Deal

Approved By: Ann Jacob-Chandler, Head of RPMO

Email: jacobchandlera@stirling.gov.uk

Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal
Annual Report 2022

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Executive Summary

Infographics to be created by design team

Date Deal Signed – **26th February 2020**

Full funding allocation - **£90.2m**

Total claimed in 2022– **£3,766,197**

Total claimed to date – **£5,087,858**

Projects/Programmes

7 projects in implementation/delivery

2 programmes in development

10 projects in development

13 business cases approved to date

101 individuals across region engaged with skills and inclusion programme

First **Regional Digital Hub** construction complete

SIEC Young Pathfinder programme launched

First **two phases of first active travel** route complete

Restoration of **Japanese Gardens**

54 jobs created

£15,220,000 secured leverage/private investment for region

£41,935,000 targeted leverage/private investment for region

TIMELINE

Visual timeline to be created by design team

February	Communications Protocol Regional Digital Hubs Programme business case approved
March	Flexible Skills project business case approved Inclusion Workers & Investment Fund project business case approved Inaugural meeting of SCREAB/REF Annual Conversation held
June	Members for Joint Committee approved
July	Change Control Process Regional Digital Hub – Cowie full business case approved
September	Japanese Gardens business case approved
November	National Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Hub outline business case approved

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework proposal agreed and consultant engaged

December

Procurement of CRD Website

Foreword

Welcome to the 2022 Annual Report of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal. We, as a partnership, are proud of the significant progress made throughout this year. There has been a great deal of activity, which has seen a further four projects and one programme moving into delivery across our seven thematic areas.

It is heartening to see the range of projects now being delivered. Two of the projects under the Transport, Connectivity & Low Carbon Theme have had full business case approval. There is significant progress with the Regional Energy Masterplan (REM) having conducted extensive stakeholder consultation, the result of which is a complete strategy with business case for the development of a number of projects which will be finalised in March 2023. Construction is also ongoing with two completed phases within the Walk, Cycle, Live Stirling project that will connect people and places in the heart of Stirling like never before. The Active Travel Programme, an investment in more than 40km of walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure, is within the latter stages of business case development and once approved will see a number of further projects come forward, the first of these in Clackmannanshire.

In our Innovation Theme, Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC) – led by the University of Stirling – has entered delivery with the mission to drive the creation of a net-zero regional economy across the Forth Valley, unlocking new opportunities for employment and skills development, as Scotland makes the transition to cleaner, greener ways of work. Notably, phase one has seen a new business accelerator established at Forth Valley College in Alloa, together with the launch of SIEC's flagship project, the Forth Environmental Resilience Array (Forth-ERA). The outline business case for the National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub (NATIH) – a pioneering innovation centre set up at the University to drive the UK's ambitions to become a world leader in modern aquaculture practice – was approved at the November Joint Committee. Aiming to increase the economic, social, and environmental benefits of aquaculture, the Hub will use the latest research techniques to tackle the major challenges facing the sector to ensure that the UK leads and innovates the aquaculture industry. Following formal adoption of the Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub as a project within the Deal in December 2021, planning has been ongoing through the year for development of the facility.

Under the Digital Theme, our Regional Digital Hubs is a programme of investment and skills to transform and benefit urban, rural and disadvantaged areas of the region. This programme was approved in the first quarter of 2022 and the first project – a digital hub in the village of Cowie – was approved in the summer of 2022 and construction has completed, with the Hub scheduled to open spring 2023. The Clackmannanshire Digital Hub is under business case development.

Both projects in the Skills and Inclusion Programme moved into delivery in 2022. The Flexible Skills project is delivering digital and environmental skills training to participants who have felt excluded from the labour market. Work is also ongoing on our Skills Pathway Plans to create cross-cutting links to several other projects across the Deal landscape. These links will ensure that opportunities for appropriate training can be presented on projects and to clients. The Inclusion Workers and Innovation Fund is now fully operational across the region and the client base grew steadily during 2022, with 70 individuals being engaged throughout the year.

The Developing Culture, Heritage and Tourism Programme is in the latter stages of business case development. The approval of this programme, expected within the first quarter of 2023, unlocks

the way for projects, in both Stirling and Clackmannanshire, to support our vital tourism sector as it emerges from the impact of the pandemic and into the cost of living crisis. Another project within the Culture, Heritage and Tourism theme is the iconic Japanese Gardens at Cowden. The £750,000 investment – approved by Joint Committee in September – has helped restore the historic gardens to their former glory. This has already secured significant benefits for the attraction and the wider region through increased employment opportunities and an increase in visitor numbers.

Our eyes remain firmly focused on the design and – increasingly – delivery of these programmes and projects. We are determined, collectively, to ensure that they align seamlessly with our ongoing, unified approach to our common policy ambitions, including carbon reduction and the drive for net zero; inclusive growth, community wealth building, a wellbeing economy and a strong recovery from the pandemic

This Deal continues to offer real change for our communities and promises a bright future for the region. It will provide jobs and investment to our core industries and sectors and will also target the challenges our communities face in reaching their potential.

By working together with common purpose, we will seize the opportunity to realise our shared ambitions for the region, attract additional investment and put innovation and learning at the heart of the drive for opportunity, prosperity and wellbeing in the Stirling and Clackmannanshire city region.

As a result of the strong partnership working across organisational boundaries by the University of Stirling, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council and both the UK and Scottish Governments, bolder local outcomes are being achieved.

While there are challenges ahead facing all of us in the coming months, we are all looking forward to a productive and successful 2023 for our City Region Deal.

Councillor Ellen Forson	Councillor Chris Kane	Professor Gerry McCormac

***Foreword has been circulated amongst Comms Group for final review**

City Region Deal Overview

The Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal is an exciting package of investment in innovation, infrastructure and skills that will drive inclusive economic growth throughout the city region.

The UK Government and Scottish Government are each investing £45.1 million over the ten year programme. Alongside this joint Government investment, regional partners will invest up to £123.8 million, resulting in a deal worth £214 million for Stirling and Clackmannanshire. City Region partners have an ambition that the interventions created by the Deal will unlock private investment in excess of £640 million, and deliver 5,000 new jobs across a wide range of sectors.

The deal is based around 6 themes and is expected to deliver a number of transformational programmes and projects in order to deliver the four strategic outcomes:

<i>Theme</i>	<i>No of programmes /projects</i>	<i>Total Government Investment</i>
<i>Transport, Low Connectivity and Carbon</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>£7,200,000</i>
<i>Innovation</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>£56,250,000</i>
<i>Skills and Inclusion</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>£2,000,000</i>
<i>Infrastructure</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>£5,000,000</i>
<i>Culture, Heritage and Tourism</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>£15,750,000</i>
<i>Digital</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>£4,000,000</i>

Image containing 4 strategic outcomes and context:

- Inclusive economic growth
- Higher value jobs
- Shared prosperity
- Inclusive skills ecosystem

**National Tartan Centre moved from CHT to innovation*

***Phase 2 NATIH and SIEC included in Phase 1 count*

****Infographics for both table by design team*

The Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal partnership is being driven forward by Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council, the University of Stirling, the Scottish Government and UK Government.

The investment offered by Scottish and UK Governments, through the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal, is expected to act as a catalyst and accelerator for our ambitious programme. It is designed to unlock investment from within our region and beyond.

The interventions and approaches within the Deal will deliver a step-change in inclusive growth to benefit the people and communities across Stirling and Clackmannanshire

The deal was signed on 26th February 2020, and this annual report will summarise the progress made throughout year three, January 2022 – December 2022.

Geographic Overview

GIS MAP of Project Locations – Data architect/Design team

The Stirling and Clackmannanshire city region is at the heart of Scotland, with it often being referred to as Scotland in miniature. Natural beauty abounds, with the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park to the west, the silvery River Forth to the south and the majestic Ochil Hills rise in the north.

The City Region consists of two local authority areas and has a combined population of approximately 145,000 people. The city region contributes over £3.6 billion per year to the Scottish and UK economies, with the main economic sectors including tourism, retail, manufacturing and agriculture. It is also home to the University of Stirling, one of Scotland's leading educational institutes, and campuses of Forth Valley College.

The Deal also looks beyond the region, to link up with other City and Growth Deals including Tay City, Edinburgh South and East and Glasgow City. For example, through aquaculture, links have been established between the University of Stirling and both the Ayrshire and Argyll Growth Deals. There are also emerging connections between the Falkirk Growth Deal and our own, which will follow the Falkirk Growth Deal signing. The Regional Programme Management Office are fully integrated into the City and Growth Deal network, where good practice can be shared and connections made providing benefits to all.

Financial Statement

The overall deal is worth £214.0m with investment of £45.1m from Scottish Government, £45.1m from UK Government and a further £123.8m funding from Regional Partners. The table below shows the Financial Summary by project for the deal, based on the most up-to-date financial information.

Table 1 – Overall Funding Breakdown (February 2023)

Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Funding Summary						
Project	Scottish Government (£000's)	UK Government (£000's)	Regional Partners (£000's)	Other Partners (£000's)	Commercial Partners (£000's)	Total (£000's)
Total Transport, Connectivity & Low Carbon						
	7,200	0	92	21,573	258	29,123
Active Travel Routes	4,461	0	57	14,699	0	19,217
Walk, Cycle Live Stirling	2,539	0	35	6,874	258	9,706
Energy Master Planning	200	0	0	0	0	200
Total Innovation	17,000	39,250	9,393	1,842	20,509	87,995
The National Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Hub	0	17,000	8,158	1,842	0	27,000
Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC)	17,000	5,000	1,000	0	10,722	33,722
Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub (ILIH)	0	7,250	0	0	9,788	17,038
National Tartan Centre	0	10,000	235	0	0	10,235
Total Skills & Inclusion	1,900	100	0	313	0	2,313
Flexible Skills	1,503	0	0	0	0	1,503
Inclusion Workers & Investment Fund	397	0	0	313	0	711
Clackmannanshire Lone Parents Programme	0	100	0	0	0	100
Total Infrastructure	0	5,000	98	0	0	5,098
Ministry of Defence Land at Forthside	0	5,000	98	0	0	5,098
Total Culture, Heritage & Tourism	15,000	750	426	226	786	17,188
Developing Cultural, Heritage & Tourism	15,000	0	426	0	0	15,426
Japanese Gardens	0	750	0	226	786	1,762
Total Digital	4,000	0	286	1,352	0	5,638
Stirling Digital Hub	2,000	0	45	0	0	2,045
Regional Digital Hub	2,000	0	241	1,352	0	3,593
Grant Total	45,100	45,100	10,295	25,307	21,553	147,355

The aim is for Regional Partners to provide further leverage of £66.6m to the deal programme, details of which will become available as Full Business Cases are developed and approved.

During 2022, Walk, Cycle, Live Stirling (WCLS), the Regional Energy Master Plan (REM), the Regional Digital Hub at Cowie, the Flexible Skills project, the Inclusion and Investment Fund project and the Japanese Gardens all moved into a position whereby they could claim funding against the Government monies. Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC) has been continuing to draw down funding from 2021. Moreover, the regional partner leverage position at the end of 2022 has improved to £57.2m versus £55.1m at the end of 2021, representing an increase of £2.1m.

The intention is for more of this funding to become fully secured as additional projects move into a delivery phase. With the increasing engagement with partner organisations and businesses, the

strong anticipation is that the remaining target of £66.6 million will be met through additional funding avenues.

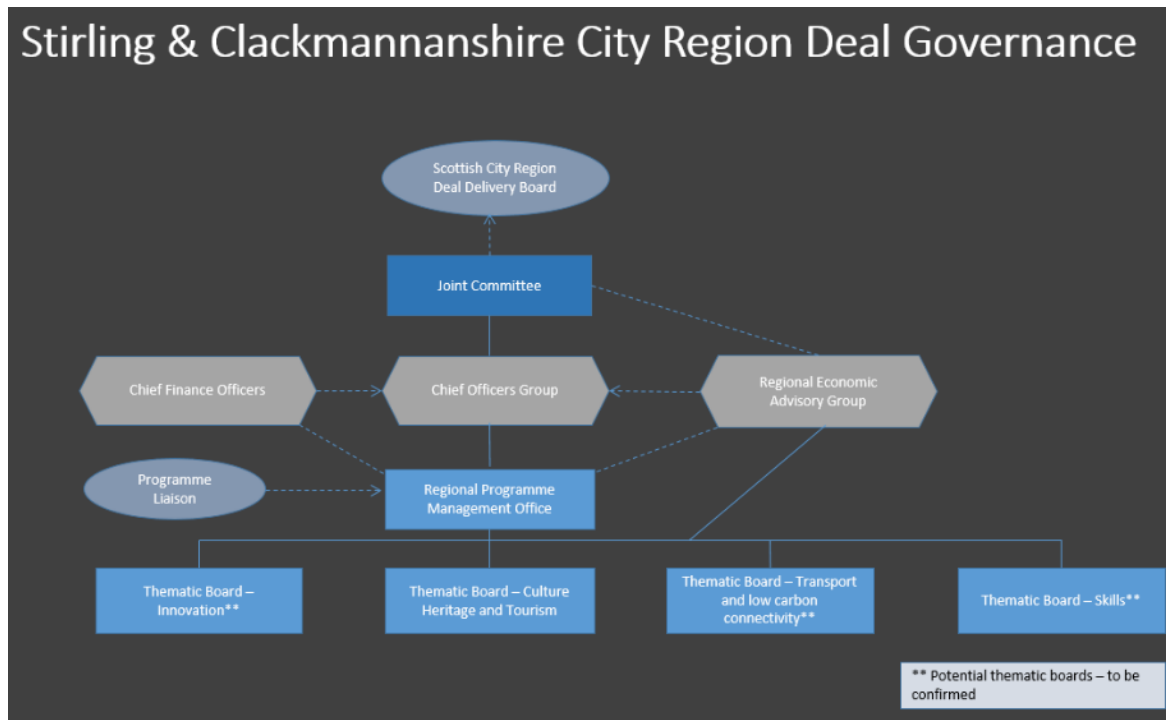
Table 2 – 2022 Financial Drawdown Summary

Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Claim Position for Financial Year 2021/22 (Q4) & 2022/23 (Q1 to Q3)			
Project		Claims Totals (£000's)	Grant Totals (£000's)
Total Transport, Connectivity & Low Carbon		1,543	1,886
Active Travel Routes		0	0
Walk, Cycle Live Stirling		1,435	1,686
Energy Master Planning		108	200
Total Innovation		1,071	7,761
The National Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Hub		0	3,481
Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC)		1,071	4,280
Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub (ILIH)		0	0
National Tartan Centre		0	0
Total Skills & Inclusion		131	371
Flexible Skills		40	238
Inclusion Workers & Investment Fund		91	108
Clackmannanshire Lone Parents Programme		0	25
Total Infrastructure		0	3,750
Ministry of Defence Land at Forthside		0	3,750
Total Culture, Heritage & Tourism		587	688
Developing Cultural, Heritage & Tourism Assets		0	125
Japanese Gardens		587	563
Total Digital		434	500
Stirling Digital Hub		0	0
Regional Digital Hub		434	500
Grant Total		3,766	14,955

For the calendar year 2022, the sums claimed from the two Governments rose to £3.8 million, from a total of £2.6 million in 2021. With more projects moving into the development stages in 2023, the hope is that this drawdown figure will continue to rise sharply. Overall, given the Deal commenced in the same year as the Covid-19 outbreak, tremendous strides have been made to secure the funding available from Government and through leveraged funding.

Deal Governance and Management

The governance structure of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal as of 2022 is illustrated in the diagram below:



*Regional Economic Advisory Group previously SCREAB/REF

The Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal has been in operation since February 2020, underpinned by a suite of governance documents which facilitate management of the programme.

The Joint Committee has the ultimate say over key strategic decision making required to support the Deal and the wider strategy. The Joint Committee is comprised of Elected Members from Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils and senior representatives from the University of Stirling providing a diverse range of views and ensuring representation from across the partnership.

The Regional Programme Management Office (RPMO) meets the UK Government and Scottish Government on a weekly basis to discuss progress as well as a quarterly to review performance and look ahead to future activity.

Whilst there are many benefits the City Region Deal will provide, all programmes and projects will be evaluated using a set of SMART Strategic Objectives:

Strategic Outcome	SMART Strategic Objective
Inclusive Economic Growth (IEG) Create conditions for businesses to thrive both locally and globally, increase job density and access to opportunity, maximising our regional assets	1 We will create conditions for businesses to be more resilient and thrive both locally and globally
	2 We will support the creation and retention of jobs promoting Fair Work
	3 We will maximise our regional assets to increase the economic impact of visitors on our regional economy
	4 We will support our regional supply chain through the use of progressive procurement
Higher value jobs Invest in the creation of clean, green innovations, digital entrepreneurship and cultural opportunities to deliver a more diverse regional economy	1 We will support an increase in the proportion of jobs within the region offering the Real Living Wage or higher
	2 We will support an increase in entrepreneurship and business start-ups across the region
	3 We will support an increase of the number of higher value jobs within the region as a proportion of all jobs

Shared prosperity (SP) Remove barriers to engagement and support inclusion to share prosperity and wellbeing across the region	1 We will support improving access to employment and Fair Work opportunities particularly for communities facing exclusion within the region
	2 We will support improving access to employment and Fair Work for people within the region currently facing labour market exclusion due to specific circumstances or characteristics
	3 We will reduce the region's dependence on fossil fuels and diversify our approach to its energy requirements
	4 We will deliver our projects in accordance with the shared regional commitment to a net zero economy
Inclusive skills ecosystem (ISE) Widen access to opportunity through inclusive skills pathways that target those who face exclusion across our region	1 We will support the creation of a range of educational opportunities for employability, school, college and university students to engage with industry supporting their journey to employment
	2 We will support improved access to skills, education and training opportunities for those who face exclusion or are at risk of exclusion from the labour market
	3 We will provide opportunities for under-represented groups in key industries within the City Region Deal

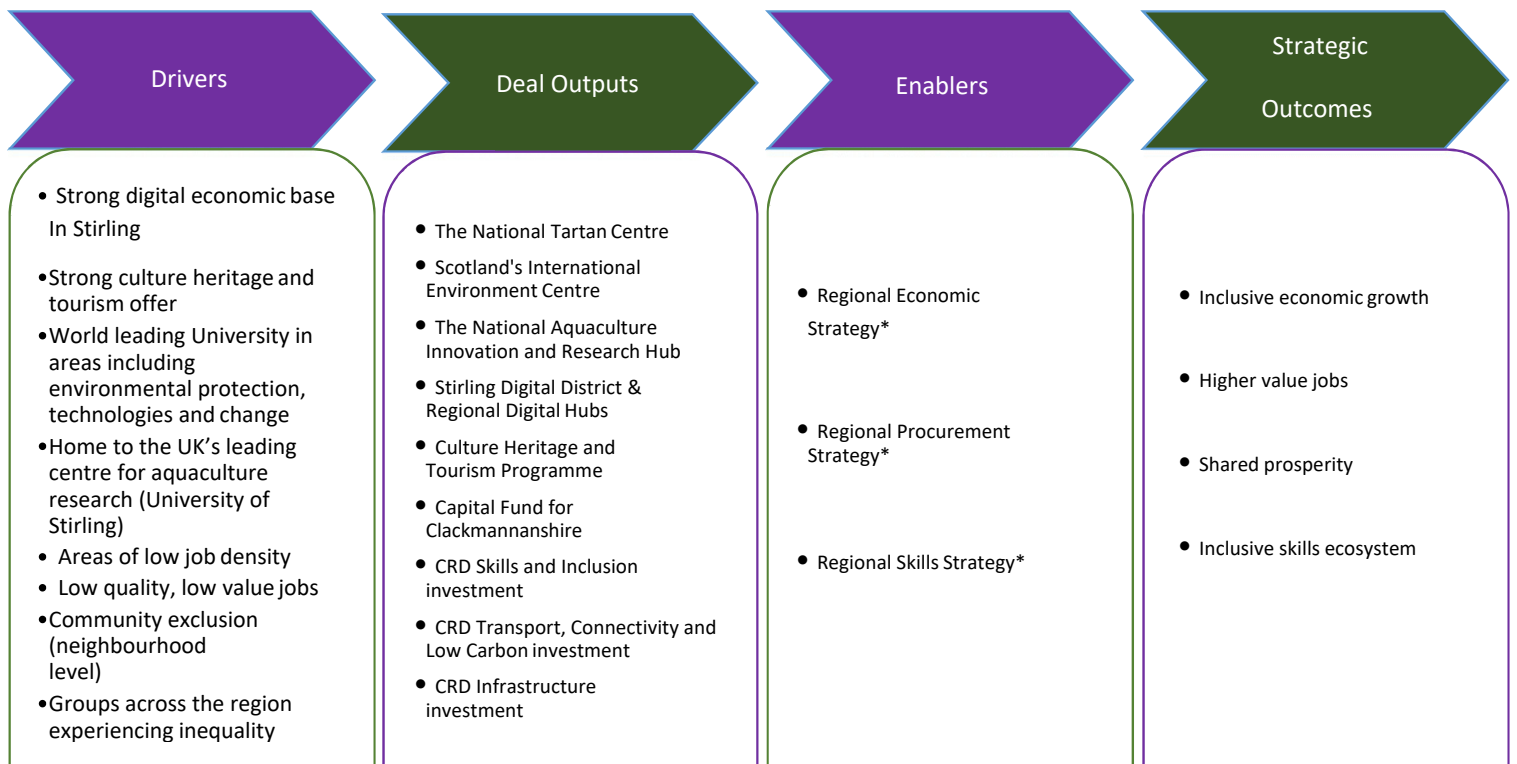
The information collated at project level will then contribute to the deal level analysis carried out under the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework on an annual basis. This will enable the partnership to evidence its performance and contribution to inclusive growth across the region and assess the impact of the total investment.

The outcomes of this will be reported through the Annual Report and discussed at the Annual Conversation, attended by the RPMO, representatives of all three partners and Scottish and UK Governments.

Benefits Realisation Plan

As a direct impact of the City Region Deal investment, the aim is to deliver 5,000 jobs across a range of sectors and unlock private investment in excess of £640m. Although ambitious, every effort is being made to maximise the benefits deriving from the city deal programmes and projects despite the negative impacts of Coronavirus, cost of living crisis and inflation.

A requirement by Scottish Government and UK Government as part of the deal management is to update the benefits realisation plan annually in accordance with the progression of the programme. As a result of this, work is underway to further develop the plan, more specifically the methodology. The RPMO are working closely with all 3 partners for direct input, to streamline the process. A benefits workshop is also scheduled in Q1 of 2023 for the City and Growth Deal network, in which all relevant outcomes will be implemented into the Benefits Realisation Plan and an update submitted to Governments for endorsement by the end of Q1 2023.



*To be developed

Progress to Date

CRD Programme

Theme	Programme/Project		Stage
Transport, Connectivity & Low Carbon	Active Travel		(P)OBC in development
	Walk Cycle Live Stirling		Implementation (Delivery)
	Regional Energy Masterplan		In Delivery
Innovation	National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub	Phase 1	FBC in development
		Phase 2	Concept
	Scotland's International Environment Centre	Phase 1	Implementation (Delivery)
		Phase 2	Concept
	Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub		Concept
	The National Tartan Centre		OBC in development
Skills and Inclusion	Flexible Skills		In Delivery
	Inclusion Workers and Investment Fund		In Delivery
	Clackmannanshire Lone Parent Programme		Concept
Infrastructure	MOD Land at Forthside		SOC in development
Culture, Heritage and Tourism	Developing Culture, Heritage and Tourism Assets		(P)OBC in development
	Japanese Gardens		In Delivery
Digital	Stirling Digital Hub		Concept
	Regional Digital Hub – Cowie		Implementation (Delivery)
	Regional Digital Hub – Callander		Concept
	Regional Digital Hub – Clackmannanshire		OBC in development

Moving from deal signing on the 26th February 2020, the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region deal faced significant challenges within the first two years of the programme. This was the result of the pandemic and the subsequent resource and capacity issues amongst the partners. The collaborative working approach adopted by the partners, the RPMO and both governments in conjunction with the commitment given to mitigate these challenges has proved successful. Year 3 has seen significant progress and a great deal of activity with a further one programme approved, and four projects moving into implementation/delivery.

Jobs Created

TOTAL: 54

CRD Delivery: 6

Partners CRD resource: 5

Scotland's International
Environment Centre: 18

Flexible skills: 1

Inclusion Workers: 4

Walk Cycle Live Stirling: 2

Japanese Gardens: 18

Infographics
to be created
by design
team

Leverage/Private Investment for
Region

Partners Total – Secured Funding

University of Stirling: £3.024 M

Clackmannanshire Council: £1.0 M

Stirling Council: £0.333 M

Third Party Partners: £10.863 M

Total Funding: £15.22 M

Partners Total – Targeted Funding

University of Stirling: £5.134 M

Clackmannanshire Council: £0.0 M

Stirling Council: £0.143 M

Third Party Partners: £35.997 M

Total Funding: £41.935 M

Leveraged Funding Yet To Be
Identified: £66.645 million

Leveraged Target: £123.8 M

Active Travel Programme

Lead Partner: Stirling Council & Clackmannanshire Council		
Scottish Government	£4,461,000	Total funds
UK Government	-	£18,753,000
Regional Partners	£14,292,000	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant engaged for business case development • Sustrans funding approved for first two projects 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme OBC to be approved by Governments and Joint Committee in Q1 of 2023 • Subsequent projects into business case development

The strategic vision for the Active Travel Routes Programme is for Stirling and Clackmannanshire to be an exemplar for active travel culture as we collectively seek to address the global climate emergency. The Active Travel Routes Programme, and the schemes within, will be a key component of the active travel network in the Deal area. The Programme will deliver a step change in active travel culture, making travel by walking, cycling, and wheeling for people of all ages and abilities easier in Stirling, Clackmannanshire, and beyond.

The Active Travel Programme is being developed in partnership with Transport Scotland, aligning with the Scottish Government’s commitment to active and sustainable travel as well as with both Stirling and Clackmannanshire Council’s Local Development Plans and transport strategies.

The Active Travel Programme will deliver investment in more than 40km of dedicated walking, cycling, and wheeling infrastructure. Improving active travel options around the city of Stirling, specifically connecting public transport destinations to further and higher education facilities, will encourage those travelling to those destinations to choose active travel. Achieving the shift to active travel will reduce road traffic, lower carbon emissions in line with tackling the climate emergency, while providing a healthier and more cost efficient mode of transport for users.

The Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal also highlights the economic importance of investment in active travel, recognising its ability to improve regional connectivity between local authority areas and among rural communities, providing better access to employment and education as well as increasing tourism opportunities.

Work this year has focused on developing the programme Outline Business Case for Priority Active Travel infrastructure and the projects to be included within this. The third iteration of the business case was submitted to Governments in November 2022, and when endorsed will be presented to Joint Committee in Q1 of 2023.

Walk, Cycle, Live Stirling

Lead Partner: Stirling Council		
Scottish Government	£2,539,000	Total funds £9,706,000
UK Government	-	
Regional Partners	£7,167,000	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction began April 2022 • Construction complete on two phases • 2 jobs created • Engagement with local charity to offer project management experience through construction phase 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction completion Spring 2024

The strategic vision for Stirling is for a “world-class” active travel culture, supported by a world class active travel network. The Walk, Cycle, Live Stirling (WCLS) scheme will be a vital part of this network and a so-called cornerstone contributor to the culture, making travel by walking, cycling, and wheeling for people of all ages and abilities easier in Stirling’s City streets.

The scheme represents an investment in more than 6.5km of dedicated walking, cycling, and wheeling infrastructure. Improving active travel options around the city, specifically connecting public transport destinations to further and higher education facilities and will encourage those travelling to these critical destinations to choose active travel. Achieving the shift to active travel will reduce road traffic, lower carbon emissions in line with the climate emergency, while providing a healthier and more cost efficient mode of transport for users.

The WCLS scheme will improve active travel provision along two key traffic corridors in Stirling City, connecting the University to Stirling train station, and Forth Valley College to the city centre. These in turn will link, through other projects to the Eastern Villages, the Hillfoot villages of Clackmannanshire and rural Perthshire beyond, to Alloa and further to Falkirk as well as west to the Carse of Stirling villages and the Trossachs.

The College Corridor route connects the city centre to Forth Valley College. The route includes enhancements to city centre streets which significantly improve the connectivity of active travel routes from the North and West into the city. This route will provide an opportunity for an active ‘last mile’ of travel from the bus and train stations for those coming from further afield.

The University Corridor route links the University of Stirling and the communities of Causewayhead, Cornton, Raploch and Cowane Street to the city centre, Stirling rail and bus stations via Stirling Bridge.

After Full Business Case approval in October 2021, construction started in April 2022 on Dumbarton Road along the Kings Knot, and Raploch Road South. It is currently also underway on Causewayhead Road, Goosecroft Road and Albert Place. The project is due for completion in the spring of 2024.

Regional Energy Masterplan

Lead Partner: Stirling Council & Clackmannanshire Council		
Scottish Government	£200,000	Total funds
UK Government	-	£200,000
Regional Partners	-	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data transfer • Creation of twin data model • Stakeholder engagement • First draft of masterplan complete 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan completion and outcomes

The Regional Energy Masterplan for the Forth Valley area is central to the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region response to the global climate emergency. Energy consumption is the largest component of the region’s carbon emissions: the development of this masterplan is therefore critical to our strategy for tackling the challenge.

The City Regional Deal has allocated £200,000 of funding to provide a Regional Energy Masterplan for the city region. The masterplan will produce a prioritised programme of future low-carbon energy projects. The Regional Energy Masterplan will provide a strategic overview of the wider city region, assessing energy consumption needs and generation opportunities to assist in the ongoing transition to a low carbon region in the heart of Scotland, focussing on the key principles of:

- Tackling fuel poverty
- Improving energy efficiency
- Providing renewable and low carbon energy solutions
- Delivering a more energy resilient infrastructure to the region

The projects, interventions and activities identified within the Regional Energy Masterplan will be staged over a 25 year programme, in five-year phases. Projects will be prioritised based on agreed weightings, in line with local and national priorities and targets. Socio-economic assessments will ensure investment in infrastructure that brings direct benefits to our communities, including fuel poverty reduction, carbon emissions reduction and regeneration of localities, as well as providing a more resilient and reliable energy supply.

After approval of the Business Justification Case in March 2021 and an extended period to facilitate a second tendering process, the project moved into delivery in March 2022. All data has been successfully transferred from both local authority partners and consultants are currently working on data analysis, digital model building and stakeholder engagement. The results of this will be compiled into a complete strategy with business case for further development of a number of projects. Finalisation of the plan and all outcomes are expected March 2023.

The National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub

Lead Partner: University of Stirling		
Scottish Government	-	Total funds
UK Government	£17,000,000	£27,000,000
Regional Partners	£10,000,000	*Over 2 phases
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Main Contractor - February 2022 • Appointment of Specialist Aquaculture Designer/ Installer – April 2022 • Approval of OBC at Joint Committee November 2022 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIBA Stage 4b Work package market testing completed – end January 2023 • FBC approved at Joint Committee – March 2023 • Construction commences – February 2023

The National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub (NATIH) is co-located across three sites; the University of Stirling Campus at Bridge of Allan, Niall Bromage Freshwater Research Unit at Buckieburn, and the Machrihanish Innovation Campus, Argyll. NATIH will be a pioneering innovation centre, set up to drive the UK’s ambitions to become a world leader in modern, sustainable aquaculture practice. The project will deliver a suite of state-of-the-art facilities and a business accelerator designed in partnership with aquaculture businesses in order to ensure that NATIH directly addresses current gaps in the UK’s research and innovation infrastructure.

NATIH will also provide the capacity for Scottish and UK companies to develop products and services for the global aquaculture market. The university intends to develop NATIH in a synergistic fashion with the on-campus Research and Policy Centre for Scotland’s International Environment Centre, to realise maximum added value from the total investment and to embed the principles of delivering transformational change in business practice in order that the protection and enhancement of natural resources becomes an enabler of economic prosperity, just transition and wellbeing.

The Outline Business Case received approval from Joint Committee in November 2022. Work is now underway on the Full Business Case with presentation to Joint Committee expected March 2023, once endorsed from both Scottish and UK Government.

Scotland's International Environment Centre

Lead Partner: University of Stirling and Clackmannanshire Council		
Scottish Government	£17,000,000	Total funds £33,722,000
UK Government	£5,000,000	
Regional Partners	£11,722,000	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of interim data store May 2022 • Opening of SIEC headquarters office, based at FVC, Alloa – August 2022 • Business Accelerator Team recruitment completed November 2022 • Co-location of Scotland 5G Centre Forth Valley Connect Hub, opened September 2022 • Develop ITT for data centre contract • Purchase of sensors commenced • First pilot challenge took place November 2022 – Hackathon in collaboration with Codebase • Young Pathfinders Programme launched October 2021. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Centre contract awarded – April 2023 • Deployment of sensors – March 2024 • Deployment of operational Earth observation data products – Sept 2023 • Establishment of collaborative innovation challenges and multi-channel pipeline of emerging entrepreneurs – April 2023 • Festival of Biodiversity has been rescheduled from October 2022 and will now take in spring 2023.

Through innovation and partnership, Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC) is delivering a transformational change in business practice in order that the protection and enhancement of natural resources becomes an enabler of economic prosperity, just transition and wellbeing. To support economic recovery, the Phase 1 Project, the FBC for which was approved in September 2021, is focused on the swift deployment of innovative technology and a programme of targeted support for businesses to access and benefit from that technology through the creation of new products, services, jobs, and training. An innovation community in the Forth Valley is being established that will drive the creation of a net zero regional economy that will stand as a global exemplar. Further plans to establish a major new innovation campus in Alloa and a Research & Policy Centre on the University campus are currently being scoped, with business case development anticipated to commence in 2023.

SIEC is designed to deliver a range of benefits set out in the Deal Document that addresses major economic and social challenges within the city region:

- Increase regional investment in research and development;
- Improve business density and support creation of new jobs;
- Make the region prosperous, attractive to business and people, and ensure fair opportunities for all;
- Create skilled people who are confident and aspirational;
- Increase engagement and participation in the labour market from those identified as excluded, including women and girls, young people, people with disabilities, and those living in the most deprived communities in the region;
- Build regional supply chains and community wealth building, including through progressive procurement;
- Grow the national and international marketplace.

Projects and Partnership Working	Key Information
<p>Hydro Nation Chair (HNC): The University of Stirling is hosting the HNC programme as part of SIEC. HNC is a catalyst for academic research and innovation to support the Scottish Water sector in delivering and going beyond net zero, whilst delivering service excellence, offering great value and financial sustainability.</p> <p>Partnership Working: this is being achieved through place- based activity in key areas: -The Level Programme, Fife (led by HNC) -Almond Lighthouse, West Lothian (HNC is providing scientific and technical support to Scottish Water) -Craighleith, Edinburgh – HNC leading the work stream and developing research support</p>	<p>Total award: £3,500,000 over 6 years. Funded by: Scottish Water Collaborators: Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), Glasgow Caledonian University, Heriot-Watt University, Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Government, University of Strathclyde Leveraged funding: An additional £2.67 m of research and innovation within the first year of operation.</p>
<p>Forth Climate Forest (FCF): 10 – Year project for tree planting across communities across the Forth Valley Region (FVR) for a range of climate and ecological benefits. FCF will enable us to scale up climate forest delivery across Scotland’s central belt from Forth to Clyde, drawing on the successful Clyde Climate Forest.</p>	<p>Total award: £829,000 Collaborators: Clackmannanshire Council, Falkirk Council, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Stirling</p>
<p>Developing a Toolkit for Peatland Restoration projects: The project will develop, test and apply methods for the assessment and monitoring of peatland restoration</p>	<p>Total award: £167,486 Funded by: Scottish Natural Heritage</p>
<p>Water Quality Monitoring: The project will deploy two multi-parameter water quality buoys at the Lake of Monteith, Special Area of Conservation, and Linlithgow Loch, a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). The information will be used to report on the condition of the designated site features and help evidence and drive management of the ecological recovery of both lochs.</p>	<p>Total award: 80,000 Funded by: Scottish Natural Heritage (NatureScot)</p>
<p>Monitoring the infrastructure and operations of wastewater treatment works using remote sensing technologies: A desk-based review to evaluate the potential of remote sensing technologies, including site sensors and telemetered networks, sensors flown in on drones aircrafts and satellites and will encompass the full spectrum of sensor and data types. The review will focus on approaches for assessment and monitoring of water quality in wastewater treatment works, and in the vicinity of discharge points to environment and downstream watercourses.</p>	<p>Total award: £19,000 Funded by: Private industry (project still in delivery)</p>
<p>MOT4Rivers: This project will improve our understanding of pollution-gain loss dynamics and their impacts on fluvial ecosystems using data analytical techniques</p>	<p>Total award: £1,625,284 Funded by: Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC)</p>

<p>to upscale understanding from catchment to national scale, using spatial and time series data. The models will provide national level assessment tools with the predictive capability required to guide mitigation and adaptive management approaches designed to reduce the impacts of novel combinations of pollutants on river ecosystems.</p>	<p>Collaborators: Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), the James Hutton Institute, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow.</p>
<p>Scotland 5G Centre: The S5G Connect Forth Valley is co-located with the Environmental Centre HQ at Forth Valley College, Alloa. The Hub will work in partnership with SIEC to deliver a regional business facing 5G test and development centre in Alloa, with a focus on environmental technologies, products and services.</p>	
<p>Sustainable Growth Agreement (SGA) with Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) The SGA will demonstrate, through practical solutions, how to maximise environmental, social and economic opportunities to enable and help deliver a just transition to net zero. SIEC will work alongside SEPA to deliver One Planet Prosperity through innovative regulatory approaches.</p>	

Young Pathfinders Programme

The young pathfinders programme, an idea suggested by one of our young persons within the region, is an outreach programme which seeks to support and empower young people from the Forth Valley. Over the course of an academic year, participants are provided with opportunities to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to create and implement practical sustainable solutions in their schools and local communities, whilst learning about green career and higher education pathways.

Designed and delivered by colleagues from Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC), the Young Pathfinders programme is centred around five key objectives and learning outcomes:

- Developing environmental awareness
- Developing green skills and knowledge of green career and higher education pathways
- Developing knowledge of regional green entrepreneurship and enterprise skills
- Developing employability skills, including team working, leadership, communication, and problem solving
- Applying and demonstrating these skills and knowledge through an end of programme real world group project

Highlights from the first year included:

- Visits with green industry champions
- Claim Tomorrow young people employability fair
- Meet the scientist's event
- Green art challenge
- Young Pathfinders Climate competition
- University of Stirling Enterprise Awards (entrepreneurial inspiration)
- Programme finale and participant presentations

Following a successful pilot year in 2021/22, the Young Pathfinders programme has expanded to include high schools in Stirlingshire. The launch of the 2022/23 programme took place at the SIEC headquarters in Forth Valley College, Alloa on 15th November 2022 and Pathfinders were joined at the event by Councillor Ellen Forson, Leader of Clackmannanshire Council.

Intergenerational Living and Innovation Hub

Lead Partner: University of Stirling and Clackmannanshire Council		
Scottish Government	-	Total funds
UK Government	£7,250,000	£17,038,000
Regional Partners	£9,788,000	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping has commenced and a large number of workshops have taken place to establish work streams to support Business Engagement, Skills, Innovation and Enterprise, and the Demonstrator. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An engagement plan to be developed to include the third sector, business and local health and social care providers.

Across the industrialised world, populations are getting older. Globally, the population of people over 60 and over is set to double by 2050, while in Scotland the population is ageing at a faster rate than the rest of the UK. This changing balance presents a profound set of challenges around quality of life, health and well-being but also creates opportunities for economic development and social inclusion. An ageing population creates demand for new care technologies, new housing models and innovative savings products for retirement to help people remain independent for longer, continue to work or remain economically active, and stay connected within and beyond their communities.

The Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub is a multi- million-pound research and development platform that will respond to the demands of an ageing population, transforming the narrative of ageing from one of challenge to opportunity. Through pioneering novel approaches to ways of living, working, and socialising, the Hub will create the solutions necessary to support an ageing society to adapt to changing it. Incorporating state of the art infrastructure and a development zone, the Hub, which will be located in Clackmannanshire, will enable businesses to embrace the opportunities presented by an ageing population by undertaking at scale research, product and service development and testing, skills development, and training. The Hub will bring together architects, designers, construction companies and services, healthcare technology providers, and the markets they serve.

This collaborative approach will enable industry, partners, service, and healthcare providers and the third sector to translate novel and innovative ideas into commercially and socially viable solutions and models through rapid prototype development. It will be an exemplar of place-based innovation, working together with Scotland's International Environment Centre to create an innovation campus at the heart of some of the region's most challenged communities.

Over the next year, the project will focus on the options appraisal and towards the end of the year, the outline business case will commence.

Projects and Partnership Working	Key Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DesHCA The Designing Homes for Healthy Cognitive Ageing (DesHCA) project brings together people from academia and the private sector to examine the key issues around cognitively supportive home design and adaption. 	Funded by: ESRC Collaborators include companies across Architecture & Construction, Health & Care, Technology, Housing and Local Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intersectional Stigma of Place-based Ageing (ISPA) The study 'Intersectional Stigma of Place based Ageing' (ISPA) will investigate and identify how 	Total Award: £2m Funded by: ESRC

<p>stigma related to age, disability, and where someone lives, create additional barriers for older people living with sensory and mobility impairments.</p> <p>The project will also build an 'Inclusive Living Alliance' a UK wide network made up of organisations from housing, health, social care and the third sector.</p>	<p>Partners include the Housing LIN and Scottish Federation of Housing Associations</p>
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The National Tartan Centre

Lead Partner: Stirling Council		
Scottish Government	-	Total funds
UK Government	£10,000,000	£10,000,000
Regional Partners	-	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in theme categorization • Project Director appointed – March 2022 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of OBC

Investment through the City Region Deal will provide a Stirling based National Tartan Centre. This international-class facility will reinforce the City of Stirling’s position as a go-to destination and as a centre of excellence for the heritage, history and future of Tartan right in the heart of Scotland whilst also being financially self-sustaining.

Having undergone a change of theme in 2022 from Culture, Heritage and Tourism to Innovation, a vision and preferred way forward for the project has been developed and discussed with senior management within the delivery partner. A Project Director was appointed in March 2022 and has been re-scoping the project alongside developing the strategic vision to drive the project forward with the development of an outline business case to follow. The team is currently working on proposal for a preferred location and the design of the future premises. The Centre will comprise a museum inclusive of education activities, A DLab organising the innovation and research side and the retail and hospitality side of future activities.

Vision and mission of the NTC have been agreed as such:

The mission: The National Tartan Centre seeks to unfold the past, discuss the present and invent the future of the most iconic symbol of Scotland. Welcoming everybody, the Centre is a place to learn, have fun and create in innovative and unexpected ways.

The vision: To become the international reference on tartan and textile heritage and innovation as well as an engaging and transformational destination for any visitor.

Flexible Skills

Lead Partner: Clackmannanshire Council		
Scottish Government	£1,503,000	Total funds
UK Government	-	£1,503,000
Regional Partners	-	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BJC approved March 2022 • 'City Region Deal Skills Lead' appointed • Consultant engaged with Skills Pathway Plans • 31 individuals across region engaged with project 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of project benefits outlined in business case

Inclusive Growth lies at the heart of the Deal. This project will drive inclusive growth and tackle inequality, through growing local talent and providing new opportunities and routes into employment for people across the region.

The project utilises funding to deliver support, linked to the Deal's capital projects and associated sectors in the wider Deal, to 500 people across the region facing or experiencing labour market exclusion. In addition, it supports strategic approaches across the Deal which will influence the wider regional skills and employability system in response to the opportunities and changes in local labour market structures that will result from the Deal and wider changes in the regional economy.

The City Region Deal Skills Lead is now in post and is building networks across the region, progressing with Skills Pathways Plans work and looking at opportunities for skills development across the region.

The key process embedded in the project which will determine specific activity is the development of Skills Pathways Plans. These plans, which will be owned and led by individual Deal projects with support from the Flexible Skills Programme, will ensure that skills interventions are developed and delivered which maximise the skills opportunities of:

- infrastructure project delivery,
- the ongoing use of that infrastructure project,
- the wider opportunities the infrastructure project creates for the region, and
- a legacy to support the skills required for the wider inclusive economic growth stimulated by the Deal.

Consultancy work is underway to complete the regional level work for Skills Pathways Plans.

The following projects are in progress:

1. Flexible Digital Skills being run by Forth Valley College (Alloa Campus) has attracted 22 delegates in the first programme, with a further cohort under way which commenced in October 2022.
2. Bikeability project being delivered by Forth Environment Link on behalf of Stirling Council commenced in October 2022, with activities planned across the region in both Stirling and Clackmannanshire.
3. Several small scale digital projects underway being delivered in the community in conjunction with local digital businesses and employability providers. These will be complete by end March 2023

Plans are also underway for the potential of a challenge fund for small community projects for digital and green skills provision within Stirling and Clackmannanshire communities alongside third sector organisations. These projects will take place within Q1 of 2023.

Inclusion Workers and Investment Fund

Lead Partner: Stirling Council		
Scottish Government	£397,000	Total funds £563,000
UK Government	-	
Regional Partners	£166,000	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BJC approved March 2022 • Four Inclusion Workers in place • 70 individual across region engaged with project • 38 individuals reporting gains in soft outcomes • 30 individuals reporting barrier alleviated • 7 individuals participating in accredited learning • 3 individuals progressing from inclusion support to employability support 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realisation of benefits and achievement of target outcomes in business case

The project enables a team of ‘Inclusion Workers’ to identify and support people most distant from the labour market who are not yet ready to engage with mainstream employability provision. The interventions it will provide are vital. Many residents within the target groups are further excluded than previously due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this intervention will be key in ensuring they are appropriately supported into the various employability and skills offers available.

After approval of the Business Justification Case in March 2022, the project moved at pace into delivery. A team of four inclusion workers are now in place and participants are benefiting from personalised one to one intensive support.

CASE STUDY

Case study 1

Celia became involved with the inclusion project in October last year. She was already being supported by The Haven and Forth Valley Recovery Group and was offered additional support through an Inclusion Worker. Celia is a recovering drug addict who has been in and out of prison, and was homeless until 3 years ago.

The Inclusion Worker helped Celia to understand and access the benefits she was entitled to. Having the extra income enabled her to start to enjoy life more. For example, it enabled her to make improvements and changes to her flat to make it feel more homely. Celia had previously never felt like her flat was her home as she associated it with prison – the only other time she’d consistently had a roof over her head.

The Inclusion Worker also helped Celia to develop an action plan of support and goals. One of her goals is to help support others like herself to become drug free. Working towards this, she put her name forward for a Forth Valley Recovery volunteer course. She wanted to take part in the course but doubted herself due to low confidence and anxiety. The Inclusion Worker and support team from The Haven and Forth Valley Recovery helped Celia to understand how her skills and real life experience would make her a great candidate. She put her name forward and has been accepted on to the course.

Celia's anxiety and health are improving. She has commented several times that she doesn't deserve the life she has now. Our Inclusion Worker reminds her of the challenges she's faced in her life, and the journey she has made so far. With continued support from the team (Inclusion project, The Haven, Forth Valley Recovery) Celia will continue to achieve her goals. Celia has commented that the team have changed her life.

Case study 2

Aaron became involved with the inclusion project in June this year after he was referred from Learning and Employability Team at Stirling Council.

Aaron suffers from poor mental wellbeing and although he enjoys being outdoors his thinking pattern could trigger a panic attack, leaving him unable to use public transport. During the relationship and confidence building process Aaron was encouraged to go outdoors while taking a lead role in where we would walk. Aaron's identified goals were to expand his comfort zone, whilst improving his social skillset. A big step in Aaron expanding his comfort zone was identified as having the confidence to self-travel something that had caused him difficulty.

Aaron was advised of a stress management course taking place in Stirling and he agreed to attend. This course has provided him with the opportunities to meet others while learning relaxation techniques and self-traveling using public transport. Aaron has stated that breathing exercises have been helping him and he is aware of the increase in confidence he has gained through interaction and self-travelling.

Aaron has relayed that since becoming involved with the inclusion project he feels better within himself and he is more positive about the future. Aaron's mum Julie has noticed a difference and she said "Aaron is doing brilliant"

Clackmannanshire Lone Parent Programme

Lead Partner: Clackmannanshire Council		
Scottish Government	-	Total funds
UK Government – DWP	£100,000	£100,000
Regional Partners	-	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone

To build on the work of the Clackmannanshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan strengthening our inclusion offer. It will enable work to support lone parents, an identified target group, through delivery of targeted pre-employability support to people in Alloa South & East. This fund will flow from the Department of Work and Pensions to Clackmannanshire Council.

The Clackmannanshire Lone Parent Programme remains under active consideration by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Clackmannanshire Council and the Regional Programme Management Office. Proposals for the fund have been considered by all partners, including the UK Government, and it is to be hoped that a positive outcome will be forthcoming in Year 4, 2023/24.

Ministry of Defence Land at Forthside

Lead Partner: Stirling Council		
Scottish Government	-	Total funds
UK Government	£5,000,000	£5,108,000
Regional Partners	£108,000	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants engaged on development of strategic outline case • Draft SOC prepared • Levelling up Fund £19m bid successful 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic outline case approved - 2023 • Transfer of land – 2023/2024

The development of the Forthside Ministry of Defence (MOD) site will unlock a significant mixed-use development opportunity, the scale of which has not been realised in Stirling for a generation. The site, at just over 40 acres, is the largest brown-field site close to the city centre area.

This presents a unique opportunity for Stirling to deliver a sustainable development which combines carbon neutral city centre living with dynamic business and leisure space. The positioning of the site, will provide a catalyst for wider place-making opportunities and transform a key district of the city.

The site - strategically located between two of the main corridors into the city - has good access links. However, given recent use as a base by the Ministry of Defence, the value it adds to the city is extremely restricted.

Through proposed development, the site will be opened up, providing new access and enabling enhanced public transport, cycling and active travel corridors, integrating the development with the city and beyond. Proximity to Stirling's district heating system and Stirling rail and bus stations will make this one of Stirling's most sustainable developments.

The Stirling Levelling Up Fund bid focused on the redevelopment of Forthside - building on the momentum gained through the City Region Deal. The Council successfully secured £19m of LUF funding. The project presents a transformational opportunity for sustainable development and inward investment at scale for the benefit of the whole city and wider region. £16 million of the £19m LUF funding is allocated to the redevelopment of the MOD site. The remaining £3 million will go towards complimentary active travel projects to better connect the site.

The Forthside redevelopment project seeks to unlock the 14.15ha MOD site, to support 1,000 additional jobs, delivering over £22m regeneration benefit alongside almost £40m of active travel benefits. The project will transform the MOD site from a closed industrial site to a prime investment location.

Negotiations have continued between Stirling Council, MOD Estates and the UK Government on the arrangements for the decommissioning and transfer of the land. Consultants have been engaged on the development of the Strategic Outline Case and this is expected to be presented to Joint Committee in 2023

Developing Culture, Heritage and Tourism Assets

Lead Partner: Stirling Council and Clackmannanshire Council		
Scottish Government	£15,000,000	Total funds
UK Government	-	£15,000,000
Regional Partners	-	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Board Established • Submission of Programme OBC to Scottish and UK Government 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme OBC endorsed by Governments and approved by Joint Committee • Project Selection Process to commence

The City Region Deal sets out the shared vision of regional partners to make the City Region “a highly desirable place to live, work and visit: an attractive place in which to invest financial, human and social capital”.

As part of this vision, it was recognised that that there would be very significant opportunities to strengthen the regional economy by making investments in culture, heritage and tourism which are an integral part of the City Region Deal. Investment across these areas can support the destination, facilitate post-pandemic recovery, stimulate growth in the value of tourism to the local economy, encourage new businesses and fresh investment, create employment opportunities, as well as encourage strong effective partnership working.

To support the Culture, Heritage and Tourism programme, a Programme Board has been appointed, with representation from key partner agencies and from the private sector. This group has been directly involved in developing the Programme-level Outline Business Case.

The Outline Business Case is based on a number of complementary interventions, each of which will have the capacity to deliver sustainable, inclusive growth with the following objectives:

- 1) Based on the strengthened appeal of the region as a destination, and on market recovery (to pre-pandemic levels of visitor spending) being stabilised by 2025, achieve a sustained level of market growth across the period from 2026 to 2030, measured by spending from residential and non-residential visitor segments.
- 2) Deliver sustained growth in the number of employment opportunities offered by businesses linked to the Culture, Heritage and Tourism sector, across the period from 2026 to 2030.
- 3) Secure additional funding (with a minimum value of £15m) across the lifetime of the programme (through private and other public sector channels), in the approved projects (and in other initiatives within the sector), to strengthen the value of sustainable tourism as a driver of economic activity.
- 4) Capitalise on the heightened profile of the region to achieve an expansion in market share, above 5% for international visitors, and above 7.5% for domestic visitors, with associated benefits in spending.
- 5) Create expanded opportunities for residents across the entire region to participate and engage in culture, heritage, and leisure based activities, and to benefit from positive social outcomes, including improvements in the physical environment. There is a clear intention that

these interventions will contribute to an improved offer for visitors throughout the region, and the (capital) investment of £15m will develop and augment key assets.

Following Government endorsement and Joint Committee approval, expected in March 2023, each of the candidate projects will then be subject to appraisal, and the individual (project-specific) business cases will then be developed

Japanese Gardens

Lead Partner: Clackmannanshire Council		
Scottish Government	-	Total funds
UK Government	£750,000	£1,762,000
Regional Partners	£1,012,000	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of BJC in September 2022 • Restoration work underway • 18 jobs created 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of restoration work • Installation of external lighting

The Japanese Garden at Cowden was commissioned by the explorer Ella Christie in 1908 after an inspiring visit to Kyoto. The garden was created by Taki Handa, the only woman credited with the design of a garden of its type. The Japanese Garden was destroyed by vandals in 1963 and it was almost lost forever, until a careful restoration project by a charitable trust began in 2014. Due to overwhelming interest the garden opened to visitors while restoration work was in progress.

City Region Deal investment is needed to help develop the infrastructure and permanent facilities required for the continued operation of this unique new tourism offer for Clackmannanshire. The project considered for City Region Deal funding includes the full restoration of the Japanese Garden, including capital investment to restore permanent features such as the Tea House, gardens and pathways and enabling infrastructure. Further capital investment may be made once the Japanese Garden has been fully restored.

After the approval of the Business Justification Case at Joint Committee in September 2022, the project continues to undergo restoration works with external lighting also due to be fitted during the winter 2022/23. The gardens are reporting a continuous rise in visitor numbers, with the majority travelling from outside the region. As part of the monitoring and evaluation process, the project will look to report on the objectives stated within the business case and assess the impact on the region.

Stirling Digital Hub

Lead Partner: Stirling Council		
Scottish Government	£2,000,000	Total funds
UK Government	-	£2,000,000
Regional Partners	-	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand survey underway to assess market • Architect procured and conducting options analysis 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of OBC

The Digital District is a programme of investment and skills to transform and benefit urban, rural and disadvantaged areas of the region. Within ten years, the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region aims to be recognised as one of the UK’s leading areas for digital technology and as a centre of excellence for digital skills and education across several sectors.

The Stirling Digital Hub is a £2 million investment to deliver Phase 2 of the Digital District in Stirling City, building upon recent successes and enabling future business growth. A landmark asset, the Municipal Buildings, was converted into high quality working space designed for the digital and creative sector and a home for Codebase Stirling. Codebase is the UK’s largest technology incubator. Codebase Stirling was opened in September 2017 and already has high levels of occupancy, demonstrating the need for development of the Digital District across the wider city centre and beyond.

Work is being carried out by architects on an options analysis of potential locations for the Stirling hub in the city centre. Once the outcomes of this work have concluded, the development of an outline business case will begin.

Regional Digital Hub

All projects within the Digital investment theme will lead to the creation of high value jobs and digitally literate communities as the region becomes a leader in digital technology and creativity. The delivery of these hubs will encourage innovation by providing open data and co locating students, businesses, academics and mobile workers from local and regional companies. The development of an innovative spirit will result in an increase of start-up businesses and entrepreneurship. The support provided to businesses, the networks created, and business-to-business collaboration will help to encourage businesses to stay and grow in key communities within our region.

The roll out of Digital Regional Hubs in our rural areas will be supported by the City Region Deal. A trio of digital hubs will be located across the region in Cowie, Callander and Clackmannanshire. This will build on the city region's recent successes and enable future business growth. The investment will provide high quality business space which will allow growing companies in the region to stay local and create new and exciting opportunities across the area.

Cowie

Lead Partner: Stirling Council		
Scottish Government	£500,000	Total funds
UK Government	-	£2,093,000
Regional Partners	£1,593,000	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of business case July 2022 External construction complete 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of internal fit out Official opening of hub

The Cowie Digital Hub will host new, modern business accommodation and a new library providing much needed space for community services, business and entrepreneurial activities as well as employability and skills support.

Following approval of the full business case in July 2022, the construction of the Cowie Digital Hub has now concluded and moves towards the development of the interior space to make suitable for occupation. The hub is expected to open in spring 2023.

Callander

Lead Partner: Stirling Council		
Scottish Government	£840,000	Total funds
UK Government	-	£840,000
Regional Partners	-	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options analysis complete Refreshed demand survey underway 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of OBC

Due to the ongoing cost of living crisis, this project amongst others within the deal have reported on escalation of projects costs and impact on deliverability. As a result, the development of this project has paused to allow a review to be undertaken on rising costs and define the next steps in order to deliver a suitable option that will maximise benefits.

Clackmannanshire

Lead Partner: Clackmannanshire Council		
Scottish Government	£660,000	Total funds
UK Government	-	£660,000
Regional Partners	-	
Headline Achievements		Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder workshop held June 2022 Business case developed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline business case approved - 2023

The Clackmannanshire Digital Hub is set to provide a structure to bring together existing digital activities and supports for all aspects of the county and support a step change in digital activities for businesses and individuals. It will build upon, and link to, existing digital infrastructure within the public, private and third sector estate – including the newly announced 5G innovation hub/SIEC innovation hub and the Bowmar community digital hub.

Similarly it will connect digital skills and training provision in the university and college, schools, community groups and the business sector via a hub and spoke approach. The hub will be a key part of the regional digital offer in support of the development of a strong regional digital cluster.

A stakeholder workshop was held in June 2022 and the outcomes have been incorporated into the development of an outline business case, scheduled to be approved by Joint Committee within the first half of 2023.

The Year Ahead

- Launch of CRD Website
- Regional Economic Advisory Group operational
- Annual Conversation
- Opening of first Regional Digital Hub
- Governance review
- Approval of 2 programmes – Active Travel and Culture Heritage and Tourism
- Approval of 4 project business cases

*Infographics created by design team

For further information, please contact the City Region Deal RPMO on citydealrpmo@stirling.gov.uk

Website

Glossary

ATR	Active Travel Routes
CC	Clackmannanshire Council
CHT	Culture, Heritage and Tourism
COG	Chief Officers Group
CWB	Community Wealth Building
COVID	Coronavirus disease of 2019
FBC	Full Business Case
OBC	Outline Business Case
ILIH	Intergenerational Living and Innovation Hub
NATIH	National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub
RDH	Regional Digital Hub
RES	Regional Economic Strategy
REF	Regional Enterprise Forum
RPMO	Regional Programme Management Office
SC	Stirling Council
SCREAB	Stirling and Clackmannanshire Regional Economic Advisory Board
SDS	Skills Development Scotland
SIEC	Scotland's International Environment Centre
SE	Scottish Enterprise
SG	Scottish Government
STAG	Scottish Transport Appraisal Guide
UKG	UK Government
UoS	University of Stirling

