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Our ref:
Date: 31st May 2018

Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal

Heads of Terms Announcement

I am delighted to be able to write to you with news of a 'Heads of Terms' agreement for the much anticipated Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal. I also want to thank all of you who have helped shape these proposals and your ongoing commitment to the area.

The Deal offers great opportunities for boosting economic growth in our region which provides new opportunities for our economy, delivered in a way that includes our disadvantaged and excluded residents.

The deal will enable the city region to thrive in new and emerging sectors with a highly-skilled, flexible workforce, supported by outstanding infrastructure, through:

- The creation of a new International Environment Centre which will draw together academic expertise from across Scotland, the UK and the world. It will connect environmental research with business opportunities and training in Alloa and will take full advantage of the natural environment and heritage of the region. It will comprise three core elements: a Research and Policy Centre in Stirling; Skills and Training Facilities in Alloa and an Environmental Business Incubator in Alloa.
- New and improved Active Travel routes through the City Region Deal. Transport Scotland will work with the partners to identify investments to improve regional connectivity between Stirling City and Alloa, and outlying settlements.
- In recognition of the very significant opportunities to strengthen the regional economy's offering, investment in culture, heritage and tourism will form a key part of the deal. Subject to approval of a programme business case, the Scottish Government will make available up to £15m of capital grant investment to develop and augment key economic assets in culture, heritage and tourism.

- A new Aquaculture Innovation Hub, which will be unique in the UK, will operate four aquatic research facilities which between them will provide the full range of marine environmental conditions. The hub will create research and development opportunities to grow the export of Scottish aquaculture skills and products.
- The development of a Digital District programme of investments in digital skills, training and business development, alongside the creation of Digital Hubs in Callander and Alloa.
- The Scottish Tartan Centre, a new attraction for visitors to Stirling and Scotland, will celebrate the history of this iconic fabric that is associated with Scotland the world over, and help to grow the region's tourism industry.
- Releasing MOD land to Stirling council to align with their housing and business plans.
- A new skills and inclusion programme will ensure that businesses and communities throughout the entire region are given the opportunity to engage with and benefit from the opportunities arising from the investments delivered through this Deal. To complement this, the UK Government will build on the work of Clackmannanshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan by investing up to £100K to assist lone parents achieve their potential.
- In order to help achieve an investment balance across the region, the UKG will invest a further £8 million (capital) in projects in Clackmannanshire to be developed collaboratively with Clackmannanshire Council and other local partners as part of the Deal.

The Heads of Terms agreement sets out, in principle, the intention from each Government for local support. The full Heads of Terms document is available on the Council's City Deal website. Our next stage is to develop and agree a detailed business case for each project so, whilst it may still be a while before we see projects happening on the ground, we can move forward with more confidence around what the City Region Deal will deliver.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Forson', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Ellen Forson
Ward 4, Clackmannanshire South