

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Economy and Gaelic
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Eaconamaidh agus Gàidhlig
Kate Forbes MSP
Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA



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Colin Smyth MSP
Convener
Economy and Fair Work Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Email:
economyandfairwork.committee@parliament.scot

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INQUIRY INTO CITY AND REGIONAL GROWTH DEALS – UPDATE ON ACTIONS RAISED AT COMMITTEE

Dear Colin,

I am writing to update the Economy and Fair Work Committee on progress made against the actions which were raised during my evidence on 5th February as part of the above inquiry.

My officials have identified three actions from the session which we agreed to progress:

Action 1: Scottish Government officials will collate the financial data for projects where Growth Deal funding has been repurposed or redeployed to date.

Status: The projects and Deals which have had funding repurposed or redeployed to date (via change request approval by governments) are detailed in the table attached in Annex 1. The total value of reassigned funds comes to £281 million.

It should be noted that the projects detailed in the preceding table are those where change requests have had full approval for the repurposing of Growth Deal funding. It does not include any pending project change requests which have yet to be reviewed or formally approved, as this process determines the final figures involved.

Action 2: I would reach out to the UK Government regarding the Exascale Computer issue.

Status: Both the Minister for Business and I are actively engaging on this matter. I have written to the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology to underline that Scotland is very well placed to play a leading role in hosting AI Growth Zones and vital AI

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infrastructure and to ask that the exascale opportunity is looked at again as part of their spending review in that context. I am currently awaiting their response.

Action 3: Government officials will work with Local Authorities to encourage the collection and reporting of Growth Deal spend within local supply chains and local economies, and that this is made more visible in their annual reports.

Status: I have asked that my officials raise this with their UK Government counterparts at the next Scottish City Region Delivery Board (SCRDDDB) on 17 March. Once the action has been agreed with UK Government officials and the most appropriate method for capturing this information is agreed by the Board, the co-Chairs will write to all accountable bodies requesting this information is captured and reported on an ongoing basis. As the Deals are a partnership programme with the UK Government any changes to reporting requirements must be agreed with SCRDDDB before being progressed.

I trust this update is helpful to you, and I look forward to seeing your findings in due course.



KATE FORBES

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Annex 1- Breakdown of Reassigned Growth Deal Funds

Deal	Original Project Name (at Deal signing)	New Project Name (post change / reallocation of funds)	Total Value of Reassigned Funds
Inverness & Highland	Digital Infrastructure	Corran Ferry Land Infrastructure	£20,000,000
Inverness & Highland	A9/A82 Longman Junction Improvement	Corran Ferry Replacement Vessel	£28,000,000
Glasgow City Region	Ocean Terminal	Inverkip	£296,000
Glasgow City Region	Airport Link	Enabling & Delivering Commercial Space	£64,572,500
Glasgow City Region		New and Existing Local Projects	£64,572,500
Glasgow City Region		Clyde Metro Case for Investment	£12,215,450
Glasgow City Region	South Lanarkshire Cathkin Relief Road	South Lanarkshire Greenhills	£3,000,000
Glasgow City Region	South Lanarkshire Community Growth Areas	South Lanarkshire Greenhills	£1,330,000
Glasgow City Region	Ocean Terminal	Inchgreen	£300,000
Glasgow City Region	North Lanarkshire A8/M8	North Lanarkshire Pan Orbital Transport Corridor	£6,108,478
Glasgow City Region	North Lanarkshire Gartcosh/Glenboig		£60,087,796
Glasgow City Region	South Lanarkshire Cathkin Relief Road	South Lanarkshire Greenhills	£2,600,000
Glasgow City Region	Renfrewshire Airport Investment Area (GAIA) – AMIDS	Renfrewshire Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside	£12,346,000
Glasgow City Region	Glasgow Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership	Glasgow Canal and North	£5,600,000
		Total value of reassigned growth deal funding	£281,028,724

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