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Fri 28/11/2014 12:01

To:

consultation@housingandwellbeing.org;

Flag for follow up. Start by 02 December 2014. Due by 02 December 2014.

You replied on 01/12/2014 10:42.

Whom it may concern,

The Scottish Cities Alliance welcomes the opportunity to provide you an overview of its work programme in order that it may be taken into account as part of the Commission's consultation.

The Scottish Cities Alliance is the collaboration of Scotland's seven cities and the Scottish Government, facilitated by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI). It aims to attract external investment, stimulate economic activity and most importantly, create new jobs and business opportunities.

The Alliance partners were brought together following the launch of the Scottish Government's Agenda for Cities in December 2011. The strategic direction of the Alliance is agreed by the Leaders of the seven cities and the Scottish Government's Minister for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities and the work is delivered by senior economic development officers from each city and the Scottish Government, working in partnership with national agencies, academia and the private sector.

The Alliance programme is supported by a £7 million City Investment Fund. The purpose of the fund is to leverage other private finance or European funding, support large-scale collaborative projects and develop programmes which allow for wider city region investment.

The Alliance has agreed an ambitious set of City Investment Plans detailing £6 billion worth of investment across the Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Inverness, Perth and Stirling city regions. The subsequent approval of Glasgow's City Deal brings the total value of investment opportunity across the city regions to £10 billion. Areas for collaboration on infrastructure delivery have been identified and include residential, commercial, digital, transport and city centre regeneration opportunities. The Alliance will review and refresh the plans on an annual basis and ensure they continue to be aligned to Scotland's growth sectors. Opportunities for agglomeration and to take forward projects of scale will also be explored.

In June 2014, the Alliance approved a set of recommendations aimed at providing the cities with a menu of options for effective investment planning over the short, medium and long term. The Scottish Government made available the innovative "payment by results" Growth Accelerator Model to assist the cities in taking forward their short to medium term priorities and the cities agreed to pursue with their regions the appropriateness of creating strategic infrastructure funds for longer term investment in economic infrastructure.

The plan for delivery of the Alliance's aims and objectives includes three programmes of work: infrastructure; low carbon economy and smart cities. The three programmes complement each other and will deliver economic growth with infrastructure as the central narrative.

The Alliance's Infrastructure Project Manager is currently working with the cities to develop the business case for taking forward the residential infrastructure priorities detailed across

the city investment plans. The plans for the Cities will identify opportunities for innovation, best practice and collaboration in the delivery of housing across all tenures to support sustainable economic growth and wellbeing. The Alliance will work closely with key stakeholders including SFT, Scottish Housing Regulator, RICS and other housing industry and delivery partners to secure investment in housing provision.

The Alliance programme is underpinned by an investment programme designed to create investor confidence, provide a focal point for investors in the cities, facilitate both private and public sector investment and promote a consistent message about the benefits of investing in Scotland's cities. In addition to engaging with Scottish investors through a series of local investor events, the Alliance continues to explore opportunities to exploit London as a gateway to attract investment to Scotland before targeting specific international markets. A digital investment prospectus, available on the Alliance website, allows the Alliance to showcase the scale of investment opportunities in Scotland including opportunities for residential development.

The Alliance would welcome an opportunity to meet with the Commission to discuss its work in more detail if that were welcomed. Further information on the points raised can be found on the Alliance's website.

Kind Regards,

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