



## Annual Report 2022 - 2023



scottishcitiesalliance

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## Foreword

Welcome to the Scottish Cities Alliance's Annual Report. Following the local government elections in May, I was delighted to be reappointed by my fellow Leaders to Chair the partnership which this year welcomed the addition of Dunfermline following its award of city status as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

The last year has seen the Alliance continue to provide a positive forum for my fellow Leaders and I continue to work with the Scottish Government to address those issues that are of importance to the success of the cities and the businesses and citizens they are home to. The twin but connected challenges of the recovery of our city centres from the pandemic and the cost of living crisis have been at the forefront of discussions between the Alliance partners this year with work undertaken to advance action on increasing residential living in our cities and addressing issues relating to vacant and derelict land as well as discussions related to assisting both Scottish and UK Governments to align policy and funding to address shared economic, environmental and social wellbeing priorities.



Ensuring the Scottish cities continue to play a key role in leading discussion across academia, the private and third sectors to deliver Scotland's Transition to Net Zero whilst maximising economic opportunities continues to be a priority for the partnership. In the last year the Alliance has built upon work undertaken with the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute to develop the business case for a Climate Intelligence Service with CoSLA and the Improvement Service to improve decision making for area wide emissions across all 32 local authorities and Scottish Government as well as led the way on the development of a draft delivery framework between national and local government to agree shared actions and approaches to delivering net zero at a regional level. Building on these foundations, the Alliance intends to turn its focus in the next year to the development of the net zero pipeline across the cities working closely with Ministers and senior officers across both governments and making the most of our membership of 3Ci and wider investment network.

It has been a busy year for the Alliance's investment promotion activity with the biggest programme of in person event activity post-pandemic. The year kicked off with the Alliance supporting the cities to raise their profile as part of the inaugural UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum in Leeds in May. June provided an early opportunity for the new City Leaders and Ivan McKee, Minister for Business, Tourism and Enterprise to showcase Scotland's ambition to be at the forefront of Grade A sustainable commercial property development and engage with select investors from the Alliance's investment programme over the last few years at the opening of 177 Bothwell Street in Glasgow. The latter part of 2022 saw opportunities secured for myself as Chair to promote the Alliance's one stop shop approach to investment on a range of high profile panels including at a British-Swiss Chambers of Commerce event in Zurich, at an event in Glasgow with Business Sweden and at a US Consulate event in Edinburgh. This productive year of activity culminated in the delivery of the inaugural Scottish Cities Week programme in London in January involving all 8 City Leaders, and Ministers from both the Scottish and UK Governments. The week encapsulated the very best of partnership working with a 3 day programme of events developed with the cities, Scotland House London, Scottish Government, SDI, the UK Government's Department for Business and Trade, and 3Ci, enabling the cities to showcase their investment potential to an audience of over 130 investors, developers, agents and built environment professionals including Marubeni Europower, Mitsubishi, BECGI and Edmond de Rothschild REIM.

The Alliance's £46 million "Scotland's 8<sup>th</sup> City – the Smart City" ERDF Programme continues to showcase the innovative approach Scotland's cities are taking to make Scotland an innovative and sustainable place for investment. To date the programme has delivered 57 new innovative services and opened 280 new data sets for innovation and helped to support the 7 cities involved in the programme towards the adoption of open spatial data platforms with over 500 spatial datasets. As the programme enters its final year of delivery, I am pleased to say it continues to be nominated for numerous awards and opportunities for wider dissemination and adoption by local authorities including the Alliance's newest city Dunfermline, who are being supported through the sharing of case study materials. Outwith the 8<sup>th</sup> City Programme, the Alliance continues to support the cities with other smart activity including the development of the hydrogen economy in Scotland through its continued support of the Hydrogen Scotland Education Programme delivered in partnership with industry as well as supporting the cities to access support from the Scottish Government's Heat Network Support Unit to take 7 city low carbon heat projects through business case development.

Looking ahead, I am confident that through collaboration and coordination the Alliance can collectively rise to the challenges our cities face and bring our collective influence to bear in a positive way to support the implementation of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, the delivery of Scotland's Transition to Net Zero and attract new investment to Scotland.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'J Alexander', with a stylized flourish underneath.

**Councillor John Alexander, Chair - Scottish Cities Alliance**

# Scottish Cities Alliance – Key Achievements – 2022-2023

## Investment Promotion

- Built relationships with investors via our events programme including introducing the Alliance partners to investors such as **Marubeni Europower** and **Mitsubishi** with a combined investment portfolio of over **£1 trillion**.
- Supported the Alliance partners to participate in a wider programme of activity at the inaugural **UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiIF)** which took place in Leeds in May and was attended by over 4000 delegates. Opportunities secured included:-
  - Panel Slots for cities across the programme including: **Aberdeen** on a panel about “Making the UK a world leading Hydrogen Economy”; **Dundee** participated in a roundtable discussion on “Getting Investment Ready – How can places work with the private sector to present better, more vibrant propositions?” and **Glasgow** on a roundtable discussion on “Power to the people, codesigning sustainable places for a better future.”
  - Issuing a joint press release with UKREiIF showcasing the collective Scottish cities involvement across the UKREiIF programme;
  - Securing a Scotland networking session for the Scottish cities as part of the UKREiIF programme which was attended by a number of key investors, developers and end users including **Sonder**, **GLIL Infrastructure** and **CoCity**.



*City Leaders attending an investor networking breakfast on the rooftop of the newly opened 177 Bothwell Street development in Glasgow.*

- Developed an early opportunity for the newly elected City Leaders and **Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise** to engage with select investors from the Alliance’s investment programme over the last few years. The event took place on the top floor and rooftop of **177 Bothwell Street in Glasgow**, enabling the Alliance to showcase to

investors Scotland’s ambition to be at the forefront of Grade A commercial property development and deliver on the 2045 net zero target. Investors in attendance included **Apache Capital**, **Landsec**, **Buccleuch Property**, **HUB** and **Sustainable Development Capital LLP**.

- Facilitated a **tour for City Leaders of Glasgow Buchanan Wharf**, one of the most significant regeneration projects to have taken place in the UK in recent years. The tour provided an opportunity to learn from the Head of Capital Projects at **Barclays** and **Drum Property Group’s** Operation Director about their respective investments in the development and how they worked with Glasgow City Council and wider stakeholders to deliver a complex, mixed use development with cutting edge commercial and community space and retained heritage.



**Chris Dougray** • 1st  
Executive Director- CBRE UK  
3m •

I was delighted to lead a team ( **CBRE UK**, **Brodies LLP**, **Ogilvie Construction Ltd**, and **CDA**) presenting to **Dundee City Council** on BTR development and its funding. Big thanks to **Robin Presswood**, **Caroline Morgan** and their colleagues for an engaged and interesting session. The Dundee story goes from strength to strength!



*Following connections established at the Scottish Cities Week Housing Roundtable, Dundee host a follow up discussion on Build to Rent development with CBRE, Brodies LLP, Ogilvie Construction Ltd and CDA.*

- Delivered the inaugural **Scottish Cities Week** programme which took place across 3 days in London involving all 8 Scottish city Leaders, **Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise** and **Lord Johnson, Minister of State in the Department for Business and Trade (DBT)**. The programme itself was developed in partnership with the cities, Scottish Government, SDI, the UK Government’s DBT, **3Ci** and **CBRE** and provided a focused opportunity for the Scottish cities to showcase their investment potential to an

# Scottish Cities Alliance – Key Achievements – 2022-2023

audience of over **130 investors, developers, agents and other built environment professionals**. Key highlights included:-

- An event moderated by **Prof Greg Clark, Chair of 3Ci** showcasing the cities' collective innovation economies with panel discussions involving city leaders and sectoral experts from **CodeBase**, **CBRE** and **Bruntwood SciTech**.
- A networking reception hosted by **CBRE**, the global leader in commercial real estate services and investments, at their recently refurbished UK HQ. Companies in attendance included **Elite Partners Capital**, **Stamford Property Holdings**, **Forma Fund**, and **Vita Group**.
- A morning of engagements led by the Department for Business and Trade including an investor breakfast bringing together leading international real estate and infrastructure developers, funders and asset managers including **Marubeni Europower**, **Mitsubishi**, **BCEGI** and **Edmond de Rothschild REIM**; and a stakeholder engagement session, providing an opportunity for cities to get to know key officials in the DBT and the support available to cities to help attract investment, as well as an opportunity for city leaders to meet **Lord Dominic Johnson CBE, Minister for Investment**.
- A Burns Supper hosted at **Dover House** in partnership with **3Ci** featuring a discussion on Green Investment facilitated by Prof. Greg Clark. Guests included **Deloitte**, **Arup**, **UK Infrastructure Bank** and **Phoenix Group**.



*City Leaders attending the Green Investment Burns Supper at Dover House held in partnership with 3Ci as part of the Scottish Cities Week London programme.*

- Secured opportunities throughout the year for cities to participate on high level panels including:
  - A keynote panel slot for **Dundee** with **Real Estate Live UK** on “What do UK Cities need to create and grow a Life sciences hub?” as well as a slot on the **Scottish Property Federation** Annual Conference on “Urban Renewal and the Experience Economy” which reached an audience of over 100 with attendees including **LaSalle Investment Management** and **Passerinvest Group**.
  - An opportunity for **Edinburgh** to attend the **Scottish Property Federation** Annual Dinner as a VIP guest. The dinner was attended by over 300 leading property investors and developers from across Scotland and the wider UK.
  - Secured an opportunity for **Glasgow** to give a keynote speech on behalf of the Alliance at the **UKREiF Scotland regional launch event** attended by guests from across the private and public sectors including those attending UKREiF 2023 in Leeds.
- Secured an opportunity for the Chair of the Alliance to represent the cities in a two-part event organised by the **British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce** in Zurich. During the Future Cities Exchange and Sustainability Summit, Cllr Alexander profiled the collaboration taking place across Scotland's cities to decarbonise as well as outline how the city local authorities in Scotland work with and provide support to citizens and the private sector on their decarbonisation journey.
- Arranged opportunities for the Chair to participate in a **Business Sweden** event which also included Cllr Aitken speaking about the Nordic-Scottish relationship. Nordic businesses such as **Cetetherm** and **Finnish Fortum** were in attendance alongside Swedish and Finnish Ambassadors. Cllr Alexander also participated in the **Edinburgh Science Climate Co-Lab: Financing the Energy Transition event**, Chaired by Dame Susan Rice, head of the Scottish Fiscal Commission at the Bank of Scotland HQ in Edinburgh as well as a meeting with the **US Consulate General** in Edinburgh.



# Scottish Cities Alliance – Key Achievements – 2022-2023



*Cllr John Alexander, Chair of the Alliance, meeting with US Consul General Jack Hillmeyer in Edinburgh*

- Secured two profile opportunities for the Scottish Cities Alliance in esteemed publication **Property Week**.

- In December the Alliance worked with both the Scottish and UK Governments to develop a piece highlighting positive progress on delivery of the [City Region and Growth Deals in Scotland](#).
- In January ahead of Scottish Cities Week, a thought leadership piece promoting [Scotland's position as a safe location for inward investment](#), particularly in times of global economic uncertainty.

Property Week rarely features the same author twice within a short time period so the profile given to the Alliance in the publication demonstrates the strong interest the publication's readership has in Scotland.

- Worked with cities and stakeholders to refresh case study and proposition content in the Alliance's [Investment Prospectus](#), to ensure it continues to showcase the breadth of the cities' investment offer to investors and stakeholders. New collateral showcased in the prospectus includes: **Inverness** ([Castlehill 'Spirit of the Highlands'](#)) and case studies outlining key sectors and projects for **Perth** ([Smart Investing and Technology](#)), **Dundee** ([Low Carbon and Net Zero Ambition](#)), Aberdeen ([Energy Transition](#)) and **Glasgow** ([Kelvin Hall](#)).

**Bruntwood SciTech**  
7,782 followers  
3mo · 🌐

This week, our Director of Innovation Services **Jamie Clyde** travelled to London as a panellist at the [Scottish Cities Alliance](#) conference, joining leaders and Chief Executives of Scotland's eight cities.

We caught up with Jamie following the event, and he shared how there was a real spirit of cooperation amongst each of the city leaders as they discussed the critical elements required to create successful innovation districts and the evolution of connected corridors of innovation.

It's events like this that re-establish why Bruntwood SciTech chose to invest in Scotland - expanding our portfolio outside of England for the first time. There's opportunity for growth across the country in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverness, Perth, Stirling and Dunfermline, and we're excited to be playing a part in this next chapter of innovation.

#scotlandisnow #technology #lifesciences #innovation



*Tweet from Bruntwood SciTech who along with CBRE and Codebase supported the Investing in Innovation event facilitated by Prof. Greg Clark at Scotland House London as part of Scottish Cities Week.*

- Continued to build our media presence, promoting the cities to a targeted international audience including:-
  - Securing an average of **6,600 tweet impressions per month**, achieving as high as **18,000 impressions in May 2022**;
  - Gaining an additional 394 followers on the Alliance's LinkedIn page, achieving a **23% increase over 12 months**.
- Developed original [blog](#) content on the Alliance website showcasing the best of what the Scottish cities have to offer and providing a place for potential investors to learn more about the public sector investments being made in the cities with a view to unlocking future private investment. Recent topics include the [Green Freeports announcement](#) and the positive impact this will have in **Inverness, Edinburgh, Dunfermline** and beyond, **Stirling** and **Dundee's** success in attracting [Levelling Up funding](#) and the completed and ongoing improvements works taking place at [railway stations](#) in **Aberdeen, Inverness** and **Stirling**.

# Scottish Cities Alliance – Key Achievements – 2022-2023



*The Chair of the Alliance attending the Future Cities Exchange and Sustainability Summit in Switzerland profiling the collaboration taking place across Scotland's cities to transition to net zero.*

## Smart Cities Scotland

### Scotland's 8<sup>th</sup> City – the Smart City ERDF Programme

- As the programme enters the final full year of delivery, it has delivered **57 new Innovative Services and opened 280 new data sets for Innovation** and is anticipated meet its programme targets. Innovative Service highlights across the 7 cities to date include:-

- By deploying an Intelligent Street Lighting (ISL) network, with 3,500 lights linked to a central management system, **Aberdeen** reported anticipated annual savings of £1M on street lighting costs. See case study [here](#).
- **Dundee** delivered an array of Shared Mobility and Resource Efficiency (ShareMORE). This includes the GetGo Dundee Mobility App which gives customers a single interface through which they can access a range of transportation services, including real-time availability and journey planning across modes. Named as 'Europe's most visionary city for EV policy' (WEVA) Dundee's Smart Mobility activity includes the development of Britain's first fully accessible EV charging hub, launching in April 2023.
- **Edinburgh** has delivered an integrated group of City Management / Public Safety projects linked to the new City Operations Centre which launched in December 2022. ERDF funding also supported the introduction of an advanced Video Management System (VMS) to deliver intelligence for effective city management. See case study [here](#).

- Open Data and Data Analytics activity in **Glasgow** includes data analytics and design thinking to support creative problem solving to address issues such as: COVID-19 support; Addictions health and social care information sharing; GCC clothing grants entitlement; and tackling child poverty. See case studies [here](#) (COVID19), [here](#) (Alcohol and Drug Partnership), and [here](#) (Child Poverty).
- **Inverness** is one of six cities delivering Smart Waste projects including initiatives such as smart bin sensors, solar compacting bins, optimised waste infrastructure, RFID/Machine-to-Machine/Internet of Things (IoT) approaches to service delivery, and data-led optimised or dynamic routing and scheduling of collections. This last aspect was central to the Inverness Smart Waste project – see case study [here](#).

The **Perth** Famous Grouse Ideas Centre (FGIC) was 8<sup>th</sup> City ERDF funded as an Innovation Lab nested within the PKC & WASPS-led Creative Exchange development, an award-winning space for cultural and creative workers. With open access to advanced digital technology the FGIC enables centre users to develop new products and services to tackle challenges across the Tay Region. See case study [here](#).

- **Stirling** delivered a Smart Energy project enables data generated to be captured on a centrally management platform, the Energy Hub, and is essential to improving facilities, mechanisms, processes, and procedures to identify energy wastage. With the built environment accounting for 40% of global this innovative service supports the Smart and Sustainable agenda. See case study [here](#).
- Knowledge sharing from project activity continues to be undertaken across the programme with the cities via a Knowledge Hub Forum including on planning processes, achievement of objectives, risks encountered and managed, stakeholder engagement, and lessons learned.
- The Datasets outputs delivered via the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme now feature on Open Data Platforms supported by all seven cities. The last year has seen an increasing shift towards adoption of Open Spatial Data Platforms, with over **500 open spatial datasets** now available on platforms across the cities.

# Scottish Cities Alliance – Key Achievements – 2022-2023

- The Programme supported the following projects to successfully access unallocated ERDF funding:-
  - **Edinburgh** City Operations £164,000 ERDF.
  - **Edinburgh** Driving Operational Efficiency £66,950 ERDF.
  - **Glasgow** Smart Cities Co-Ordinator £19,122 ERDF.
  - **Perth** Waste £21,268 ERDF.
- Led by **Perth**, work commenced to look at opportunities to support the cities to continue the work of Scotland's 8th City – the Smart City ERFG programme in preparation for programme completion in December 2023.

## Transition to Net Zero

- The total value of investment across Phase 1 and Phase 2 in the Alliance's ERDF funded programme is now around **£46m**, **£19m** of which is ERDF funded.
- The following 8th City projects were nominated/shortlisted for awards in the last year :-
    - Digital Leaders 100 Awards 2022: 8th City programme Phase 1 (all cities); Intelligent Street Lighting (**Aberdeen, Glasgow, Perth**); and Smart Canal\* (**Glasgow**).
    - Digital Leaders Net Zero Top 50 Award: 8th City programme (**all cities**).
    - LGC 2023 Awards: Innovation (**all cities**); Climate Response\* (**all cities**); Large Team (**all cities** and projects); and Digital Impact\* (**all cities**). Winners announced June 2023.
  - As the 8<sup>th</sup> City programme nears completion, work is ongoing to engage with key agencies such as the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), DCMS, and PETRAS National Centre of Excellence for IoT Systems Cybersecurity. Building on a NCSC [Connected Places Principles](#) workshop with 8<sup>th</sup> City partners in May 2022, this enhanced knowledge will help Scottish cities, including **Dunfermline** and wider stakeholders, build awareness and understanding of the security considerations needed to design, build, and manage their connected places – often referred to as Smart Cities.
  - Advanced progress on the delivery of the Alliance's [Transition to Net Zero Action Plan](#). Key highlights include:-
    - Refreshment of a Funding and Investment Strategy for Transition to Net Zero which maps funding available from all levels of Government, National Agencies, European programmes, and funding that can be accessed from the market;
    - Built on work with the **Improvement Service** to develop the Alliance's Peer-to-Peer Network for Transition to Net Zero as a useful forum for knowledge sharing across the cities and enable officers to learn from each other and share best practice including:-
      - A workshop on the application of Scottish Future Trust's **Net Zero Public Sector Buildings Standard**.
      - A workshop to inform the **Climate Emergency Response Group's** recommendation to the Scottish Government to ensure Scotland remains on track to meet the 2045 climate change targets.
      - A workshop with **ClimateXChange** on supporting the shift in behaviours required across the cities to deliver the Climate Change Plan.
    - In partnership with the Improvement Service, delivered carbon literacy training to a further **16 elected members** as well as **30 senior officers** across the cities, equipping them with the skills required to influence behaviour change across their communities.
    - Supported the **Scottish Government's Heat Network Support Unit** is working closely with cities to offer support to take the 7 low carbon heat projects identified by the Alliance's low carbon heat project group through to outline/full business case. To date funding and resource support has been offered to 4 projects (1 in **Dundee**, 2 in **Inverness** and 1 in **Perth**) to complete a detailed feasibility study and scoping work is being undertaken with **Stirling**.





# Scottish Cities Alliance – Key Achievements – 2022-2023

- Building on discussions facilitated between City CEOs and the Scottish Government at a Water Resilient Places event in September, work has taken place to build adaptation and nature based solutions into the Alliance's Transition to Net Zero Action Plan in recognition of the need to consider the delivery and funding of adaptation and mitigation activity together.
- Under the strategic leadership of **Aberdeen** developed a draft delivery framework between national government and local government to agree shared actions and approaches to delivering net zero at a regional level which could enable better alignment of national and local targets and address challenges and barriers to delivery. The work addresses the recommendations of the Scottish Parliament Net Zero Committee inquiry and will be used as a starting point for wider discussions with all 32 local authorities and Scottish Government via **CoSLA** and **SOLACE** who supported the Alliance taking the lead on this in the first instance.
- Worked closely with **CoSLA**, the **Improvement Service** and the **Edinburgh Climate Change Institute** to develop a costed proposal for Scottish Government and all 32 Local Authorities to invest in a **Climate Intelligence Service**. The proposal aims to build capacity and improve decision making for area-wide emissions reduction by providing the data and tools, to improve decision making for area-wide emissions reduction by providing the data and tools, and building the skills and confidence, to deliver better climate outcomes and realise the social and economic benefits of a zero-carbon economy.
- Continued discussions with the energy network providers **SPEN**, **SGN**, **Scottish Power** and **National Grid** on how they may align investment in their business strategies with city climate change plans.
- In March 2023 the Alliance became a formal member of **3Ci**, in recognition of the opportunity it presented the cities to take a place based approach to aggregating finance to provide funding for net zero across all sectors. Over the course of the last year the Alliance has:-
  - Supported 3Ci with the delivery of their regional investor event in Glasgow in November and ran a Green Investment dinner with 3Ci as part of the Scottish Cities Week programme in January.
  - Supported the development of relationships between 3Ci and the Scottish Government, SDI and SFT who are supportive of working with 3Ci via the Alliance on a demonstrator project in Scotland.
  - Supported the cities to submit details of their net zero pipeline to 3Ci's national register of bankable projects ensuring the cities are best placed to attract investment in their pipelines as well as access planned support from a National Technical Assistance programme.
- City Leaders supported the delivery of the second **Hydrogen Scotland Education Programme** delivered in partnership with **Scottish Power**, **ITM Power**, **Ballard Motive Solutions**, **ARUP**, **ARC** and **OPITO**. The challenge programme was delivered to 4500 pupils across the 8 cities, inspiring the next generation of renewable energy engineers to capitalise on the high skilled jobs the cities are looking to create and engage with region specific content including:- **Aberdeen's Hydrogen Bus, Hydrogen Hub and Vision projects, Acorn Project, H100 Fife, Hydrogen Accelerator at St Andrews, Hydrogen Vehicle Developers in Glasgow, Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc transition to a Green Transport Hub, North of Scotland Hydrogen Programme, Subterranean Hydrogen Storage Systems, UK's Largest Electrolyser at Whitelee Windfarm.**



*The Lord Provost of Aberdeen supporting the Hydrogen Scotland Education Programme in Aberdeen*

## Policy and Stakeholder Engagement

### City Centre Recovery Taskforce

- Progressed delivery of the strategic objectives in the City Centre Recovery Taskforce report including:-
  - A commission funded and led by **Glasgow** and **Stirling** looking to identify the key levers cities require to increase residential capacity and address issues related to vacant and derelict land.



# Scottish Cities Alliance – Key Achievements – 2022-2023

- A [commission](#) co-funded by the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute and the Alliance and led by Edinburgh looking at powers, levers and revenue raising opportunities the cities require to deliver net zero city centres.
- Facilitated discussions with the **Scottish Tourism Alliance** and **City BIDS** to explore how the Alliance works more closely with both bodies on key city recovery issues.
- Worked with the cities and both the Scottish and UK Governments to assist all parties to have a comprehensive understanding of how city economies are serving and are served by their local areas and regions based on existing city economic strategies and developing regional economic strategies with a view to aligning policy and funding to improve the economic performance of Scotland's cities.
- Hosted a Strategic Planning Away Day in January involving the City CEOs and **Colin Cook, Director Economy, Roy Brannen, Director General Net Zero, Paul Johnston, Director General, Communities in the Scottish Government**. The day provided a focused opportunity for the CEOs to discuss the Scottish Government's priorities through an economic, environmental and social lens including how activity in the Alliance's Operational Plan might be focused going forward to allow the partners to deliver on shared objectives at a national and city level.
- Facilitated opportunities for discussions on a range of key topics at Alliance Leadership and CEO Groups including:-
  - **Tom Arthur MSP, Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth** on the Scottish Government's aspirations for Community Wealth Building and the proposed legislation.
- Scottish Government on the development of the **National Public Energy Agency**.
- **Steven Drost, Chief Scientific Officer with Codebase** to discuss the place based innovation eco-system they are looking to establish through the roll out of **Techscalers** which will be based in 6 of the Scottish cities.
- James Withers who is undertaking the **review of skills delivery system** to allow him to get an understanding of key messages coming out of the evidence gathered so far and make him aware of key issues pertinent to the cities.
- **UK Investment Bank and Green Finance Institute** on financing the delivery of the net zero.
- Facilitated a peer-to-peer learning session with the UK Government's Union Directorate – Scotland Team to assist cities to understand what makes a good levelling up project and to learn lessons from Scottish city projects successful in receiving levelling up funding in round 1 in **Edinburgh** (Granton Gas Holder) and **Inverness** (Zero Carbon Cultural Regeneration).
- Worked with the **Glasgow City Region Knowledge Hub** to develop a briefing paper setting out the range of impacts the cost of living crisis is having across the Scottish city regions.
- Ran an Innovation Showcase event in May with the aim of highlighting respective interests and capabilities and exploring future collaboration opportunities between the cities and the seven Scottish innovation centres. An outcome of the showcase has been the establishment of a **Scottish Innovation Centres Collaboration Platform** which provides a valuable space where:-
  - Cities can share information on the challenges they are facing as a city which the innovation centres can respond to; and
  - The innovation centres can maintain an active dialogue with the cities on the solutions they have to challenges which cities may wish to adopt.



*City CEOs and officers attending the Innovation Showcase event with the 7 Scottish City Innovation Centres hosted by BE-ST in May.*

## **Budget – 2022-2023**

The Scottish Cities Alliance has two funding sources. The first is the Cities Investment Fund (CIF) for specific collaborative project activity. The second is the Alliance Operational Budget which includes employment and overhead costs for the Alliance's Core Team now employed by Dundee City Council and based within the Technology Innovation Centre at the University of Strathclyde.

### **Cities Investment Fund and Alliance Core Team budget**

£7 million was provided for the CIF by the Scottish Government when the Alliance formed in December 2011. The purpose of the fund remains unchanged and it continues to be used to leverage additional private finance and/or funding as well as support collaborative projects and activity which will allow for wider city region investment.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, the Leadership Group agreed to reinvest in both the CIF and Operational Budget for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 based on contributions from the then 7 Scottish cities which were to be matched by the Scottish Government.

Fife Council subsequently joined the Alliance when Dunfermline received city status in 2022 and agreed to contribute to the funding of both the CIF and operational budgets on the same basis as the 7 original Scottish cities through to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

The CIF budget report to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 reported a balance of funding available of **£188,209** which will be allocated to additional Operational Plan activity to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Dundee City Council took over management of the Alliance Core Team from SCDI on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 this budget reported a balance of funding available of **£27,628** which will also be allocated to additional Operational Plan activity to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

### **Alliance Budget Management 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

As a consequence of Dundee City Council taking over the employment and management of the Alliance's Operational Budget from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022, there is a desire to harmonise the budget management of the Alliance further by bringing the CIF which is currently managed by the City of Edinburgh Council under the management of Dundee City Council in the financial year 2023/2024. Discussions are underway to agree an update to the Alliance's budget management arrangements to reflect this planned move with the partners.

At this time, the Alliance partners would like to thank The City of Edinburgh Council for their support with managing the CIF budget since the Alliance's inception and the key role they have played in ensuring it has been used effectively for the benefit of the partnerships aims and objectives.