

SFT Outcomes

Demonstrating progress with impact



2020 CASE STUDY

Outcome 03



Infrastructure investment is sustainable and affordable with an increased use of innovative funding and financing approaches

Dundee Growth Accelerator

Using innovative finance to deliver growth

Following the success from The City of Edinburgh Council adopting the Scottish Futures Trust's (SFT) Growth Accelerator to unlock £850m of private sector international investment into the heart of the city, Dundee City Council chose to use the same funding approach to secure economic growth.

Dundee City Council has used the Growth Accelerator to fund the development and delivery of the following projects along the Central Waterfront area:

- The V&A museum
- The redevelopment of Dundee railway station
- The planned installation of a 5G network / digital infrastructure
- Provision of commercial Grade A office space and
- Improvements across the wider public realm

The V&A opened in September 2018 and in little over a year attracted over one million visitors to the city, with more than 10% of them coming from overseas.

A key element of Dundee's Growth Accelerator was to use the funding to drive its ambition to become a Smart City with the highest possible level of digital connectivity that will improve the quality of life for Dundonians as well as secure economic development.

An important part of this ambition was the development of a 5G testbed and public Wi-Fi network for the Dundee Waterfront and surrounding city centre areas.

During 2020, supporting infrastructure for the £1.1m project will be deployed, initially focusing on the installation of full-fibre infrastructure using council-owned ducts to enable access to the council's assets such as new and existing street furniture, buildings, and power.

The supporting infrastructure will then be utilised to deliver the public Wi-Fi service and develop the 5G testbed in partnership with UK-based 5G technology experts AWTG, Abertay University, SFT, the Scotland 5G Centre and local businesses to secure wider industry engagement.

It is envisaged that the 5G testbed will act as a catalyst for Dundee to support the growth of a 5G ecosystem that will transform the wider area into a Smart Region by unlocking the £2m funding assigned in the Tay Cities Deal for using this type of technology.

This activity will put Dundee in a leading position in this area to attract further inward investment to support 5G application development in areas such as public sector service delivery, education, healthcare, connected autonomous vehicles and mobility as a service.

