SFT CORPORATE PRIORITIES

NET ZERO

SUSTAINABLE PLACE

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

SFT Outcomes
Demonstrating progress with impact

PRIMARY OUTCOME

04

INTERNATIONALLY MOBILE CAPITAL IS DRAWN IN TO INVEST

SECONDARY OUTCOMES

01

Green datacentre reports published to accelerate inward investment

Host in Scotland

It is widely recognised that Scotland's ability to keep up with global improvements in digital connectivity is reliant on the development of new state-of-the-art data centres and on the development of landing new subsea cables that those data centres need.

In understanding the significance this sector has in supporting Scotland's economy, SFT established Host in Scotland (HiS) in 2017 to develop Scotland's knowledge, presence and expertise in the datacentre and international connectivity sector. The strategic importance of this area underpins the exponential growth in data and its associated storage requirements envisaged by the future development of technologies such as 5G and the Internet of Things.

Based on the success of HiS in developing a strong global contact base for identifying potential opportunities to attract international cable projects to land on Scottish shores, Scottish Government Digital recognised the growing importance of developing a strategy that could be used to demonstrate its future commitment to attracting and supporting future industry investment across Scotland.

HiS led on the development of this strategy, bringing together diverse public and private sector stakeholders to develop a universally acceptable approach and as a result, in March 2021, Scottish Government published its strategy, '*Green datacentres and digital connectivity: vision and action plan for Scotland*'.

HiS has already started to deliver elements within the strategy, the first of which was the publication of two *datacentre Site Selection reports*, which have raised Scotland's profile on a global basis and have attracted a number of inward investment opportunities.

Colin Palmer, Director of Marine for Crown Estate Scotland continued "We're very pleased to have been able to support this important work, which we hope will help inform future decisions. Our ability to keep up with the global improvements in connectivity are in large

SFT CORPORATE PRIORITIES

NET ZERO

SUSTAINABLE PLACE

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

SFT Outcomes
Demonstrating progress with impact

PRIMARY OUTCOME

04

part reliant on the development of new state of the art data centres, and on the development of the new subsea cables that those data centres will require, both of which Scotland is well placed to host."

Head of Place at Scottish Enterprise, Derek McCrindle, said: "The scale, space and infrastructure on offer to companies looking for their next datacentre location is evident in this report with sites across the length and breadth of Scotland offering access to unique hubs that are well connected as well as providing opportunities in the supply chain and access to talent.

And in June 2021, HiS published its *North Eastern Scotland: Subsea Connectivity Feasibility Study* and is engaged in discussions with the private sector to stimulate inward investment in the datacentre/terrestrial fibre/subsea fibre in Scotland.

Iain Ritson, Director of Client Solutions at Pioneer Consulting, said: "This report demonstrates that including subsea portions can significantly reduce the cost of an otherwise terrestrial cable route. We hope this study helps inform and empower the country's efforts to encourage more direct international fibreoptic connectivity for Scotland as the nation boosts its support of bandwidth-heavy technologies."

Andrew Muir, CEO of FarrPoint, said: "This was a really interesting project to undertake as it investigates the options for using subsea cables to improve the resilience of connectivity in Scotland and provide added routes into the more rural areas. The analysis we completed in partnership with Pioneer Consulting provided all the detail required to fully understand the options, deployment considerations, and costs.

"This is the first Scottish subsea connectivity infrastructure report that includes the carbon emission calculations for such a build. With tight net-zero targets ahead, such assessments should become an essential part of any infrastructure consideration."