

SFT Outcomes Demonstrating progress with impact

PRIMARY OUTCOME



PROGRAMME AND PROJECT PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY IS EFFECTIVE

SFT CORPORATE PRIORITIES



SECONDARY OUTCOMES



Dundee fast becoming a smart city



Dundee has an ambition to become a Smart City with the highest possible level of digital connectivity that will deliver inclusive economic growth and benefit many communities across the city.

SFT identified that a key part of this ambition would be the development of a 5G testbed and public Wi-Fi network for the Dundee Waterfront and surrounding city centre areas.

The testbed would utilise SFT's Growth Accelerator (used to fund the Dundee V&A and wider Waterfront area) and would focus on the deployment of full fibre infrastructure using existing council-owned ducts to gain access to the Council's assets such as new and existing street furniture, buildings, and power. The supporting infrastructure would accelerate the delivery of the public Wi-Fi service and be used to develop the 5G testbed in partnership with industry, academia, and the public sector.

SFT's role was the provision of project management expertise, relating to:

- The set-up and delivery of a procurement process in conjunction with Dundee City Council that selected engineering firm AWTG to design, install, operate, and maintain a 5G-ready public Wi-Fi service
- The subsequent installation of AWTG's infrastructure and Wi-Fi service in parallel with the creation of a 5G testbed working closely with key stakeholders including Scottish Government, AWTG, Abertay University, Dundee City Council and the Scotland 5G Centre (S5GC)

SCOTTISH FUTURES TRUST



SFT CORPORATE PRIORITIES



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Ensuring the Waterfront public Wi-Fi services were delivered in accordance with the agreed planning schedule between the key project stakeholders responsible for approving drawdown from the available funding from Dundee City Council's Growth Accelerator utilising the governance structure currently in place

The 5G testbed has now been successfully installed and is starting to 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 to develop 5G use cases.

This activity will position Dundee as a leader in this area to attract further inward investment to support 5G application development in areas such as public sector service delivery, eSports, education, healthcare, connected autonomous vehicles and mobility as a service. These opportunities are starting to be leveraged via the recent launch of the Dundee 5G Connect hub in collaboration with S5GC, Abertay University and Dundee City Council.

In March 2021, Scotland's then Connectivity Minister, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, said: "Dundee has already established a dynamic technology-based economy and the Scottish Government's investment of £4m through the S5GC Connect programme is providing the support to drive next-generation businesses in this sector. More widely, it will also create opportunities for the many SMEs across the city, including those in the services and public sectors.

"This 5G Innovation Hub will support job creation, investment and skills development in key sectors where Dundee already excels, and crucially, it will support innovation in healthcare and manufacturing."

Paul Coffey, CEO at the Scotland 5G Centre, said: "Dundee has a proud track record of partnership working with established tech networks to enable the city to flourish. The local team at the 5G innovation hub will support organisations, networks and communities to get involved in the acceleration of 5G deployment at an earlier stage. We will work closely with the city's games industry to enable organisations to harness the many opportunities that 5G offers, such as truly simultaneous game play."

Derek Graham, programme director at SFT said; "The Digital Infrastructure team have been working closely with Dundee City Council to drive the development and delivery of its 5G testbed since its inception. We are now looking forward to extending this collaborative approach with its partners to position the 5G testbed as a catalyst for future 5G innovation across the Tay Cities Region."

Councillor Mark Flynn, convener of Dundee City Council's city development committee, said: "The business community in Dundee currently enjoy a high level of connectivity and ultrafast services with good upload and download speeds.

"But as the nature of doing business changes and there is an inevitable increase not just in demand, but in expectation, we want to ensure that more businesses in the city can enjoy a more uniform experience, with the greater performance and improved efficiency that 5G offers.

"I am delighted that Dundee will be the site of Scotland's latest 5G innovation hub."