

SFT OUTCOMES 2023

hub Programme securing additional funding to deliver essential infrastructure

PRIMARY OUTCOME

03

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT IS AFFORDABLE WITH INCREASED FINANCING INNOVATION

SECONDARY

02

05

06

07

08

10

OUR CORPORATE PRIORITIES



NET ZERO



SUSTAINABLE PLACES



INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The Scottish Futures Trust (SFT)-managed hub Programme has been running across the whole of Scotland for some 12 years and is split across five territories – South East, North, East Central, West and South West.

The premise behind the Programme is based on a partnership between public sector organisations (local authorities, NHS Boards, blue light services etc) in a specific territory appointing a private sector development partner to deliver new community facilities such as schools and health facilities.

But with public sector budgets coming under unprecedented pressure, many necessary community infrastructure projects are being delayed or halted through a lack of funding.

To help address the issue, our hub Programme team worked with our Economic Investment team to help the public bodies in the hub North Territory overcome this financial challenge.

hub North, in conjunction with our hub Programme team supported two applications for UK government 'Levelling Up Funding' – one for Aberdeen City Council and one for the Highland Council – which were successful and secured £40m to allow two regeneration and transformation projects to be developed.

In Aberdeen, a new market is to be developed that will provide a vibrant, flexible, lively destination space in the centre of Aberdeen with new street frontages and improved pedestrian links to the wider city.

And in Inverness, the transformation of Inverness Castle will create a gateway for Highland tourism, contributing to the reinvigoration of tourism across the area and providing much needed investment for the industry to aid the recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

As a result, this successful approach has led to the setting up of a funding and business case workstream for public bodies across the hub North Territory.

The hub Programme team is supporting public bodies target further opportunities, through programmes such as the Learning Estate Investment Programme, the Islands Programme and further rounds of Levelling Up Funding.

hub North is now engaged and successfully developing strategies, business cases, pitch books and funding submissions to help the public sector in the hub North territory to realise their community infrastructure investment aspirations to deliver positive outcomes for the communities they serve.

The outcome is that transformational and regeneration projects that were previously unfunded, can be delivered to improve the city centres of Inverness and Aberdeen.

Malcolm MacLeod, Highlands Council's deputy Chief Executive and Lead Officer for Inverness Castle Levelling Up Funding Application, said: "The support from SFT and hub North was timely and the service provided to ensure we could lever-in £19.8m of Levelling Up Funding was professional, thorough and positioned us to be successful. We are now able to realise the vision of the Castle transformation and to create a first-class visitor attraction and experience."