

REPORT

Joint Committee 18 October 2023 Agenda Item 3.3

National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Centre Full Business Case

Executive summary

The National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub (NATIH) is a major project within the innovation workstream of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal, led by the University of Stirling. The Full Business Case for NATIH received endorsement from the UK and Scottish Governments on [TBC] and is presented to Joint Committee in this report for approval.

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Recommendations

Joint Committee is asked to:

1. Approve the Full Business Case for the National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub

Implications

The National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub (NATIH) project is scheduled in the Deal Implementation Plan to commence in November 2023, and financial provision has been made for delivery of the project in 2023-24 and 2024-25. Approval of the Full Business Case (FBC) by Joint Committee will enable the project to commence as planned.

Legal & Risk Implications and Mitigation

The FBC for NATIH has been developed in accordance with the governance arrangements for the Deal. It contains a full assessment of risk and appropriate mitigation strategies.

Background

NATIH will create the UK's leading innovation community for sustainable aquatic food production. It will lead the development and deployment of the new technologies and systems required to support growth in the production of aquatic food for human consumption, while reducing the impact on natural resources. NATIH will cement Stirling's role as a leading centre for aquaculture, delivering research and development for domestic and international aquatic food production, creating major economic and social benefits for the region.

The FBC presents the details of the strategic, financial, economic, commercial and management cases for the project. It sets out how the £17m of UK Government investment available through the Deal will be utilised to deliver the project.

Considerations

In looking at the proposal to approve the FBC, we are considering the following:

- Joint Committee approved the Outline Business Case (OBC) for NATIH in November 2022.
- The FBC has been developed on the basis of the OBC through a process of iteration and engagement with the Scottish and UK Governments.
- The FBC received endorsement from the UK and Scottish Governments on [TBC].

- The timeline and financial profile for delivery of the project was set out in the Deal Implementation Plan approved by Joint Committee in June 2023.

Resource Implications

Financial Details

The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes

Finance Officers have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

Staffing

The full implications on staffing are set out in the report. Yes

Exempt Reports

Is this report exempt? No

Equalities Impact

Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations? Yes

Legality

It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Joint Committee is acting within its legal powers. Yes

Sustainability and Environmental

It has been confirmed that sustainability and environmental issues have been considered within the report. Yes

Policy Implications

The alignment of the NATIH project with relevant Scottish and UK Government policy is set out in full in the FBC.

Consultations

Consultations undertaken in developing the project are set out in the FBC.

Background Papers

Have you used other documents to compile your report?

Yes

1. NATIH OBC as approved by Joint Committee
2. A wide range of Scottish and UK Government policies, and analytical materials, as referenced throughout the FBC.

Appendices

Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

1. NATIH Full Business Case
2. Note that there are an extensive set of appendices to the FBC. These are available on request from the report author.

Approved by:

City Region Deal Chief Officers Group.