

**Councillor Adam McVey**  
**Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council**



Bob Doris MSP  
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

21<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Dear Bob Doris,

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – EDINBURGH CITY  
REGION DEAL**

Thank you for your email and letter of 29 November regarding the evidence that the Local Government and Communities Committee took evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Jobs and Lord Duncan on City Region Deals on 22 November. I apologise for the delay in responding.

You have highlighted the comments of the Cabinet Secretary in which he suggested that the early approach from City of Edinburgh Council to the Scottish Government was that whilst the Council was seeking a City Deal it did not want any money. You will appreciate that such discussions pre-date my becoming Council Leader and I was not therefore directly involved. I did, however, read the Official Report with interest and have asked our Chief Executive for his recollections.

The Heads of Terms tripartite agreement for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal signed in July 2017 was, as you are aware, arrived at following discussions and negotiations involving the Scottish Government, UK Government and regional partners. The projects identified evolved over the preceding 18 months or so. The Cabinet Secretary refers to the outset of the Edinburgh City Deal, as opposed to the wider Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal which ultimately became the preferred geography given how it could align with and complement the regional partnerships workstream of Phase 2 of the Enterprise and Skills Review. My understanding is that there were certain projects originally proposed that could have been accommodated the granting of enabling powers, the introduction a transient visitor levy or through devolving existing funding. This, however, related to devolved matters. I am advised that funding was always sought, particularly in relation to reserved aspects.

I hope that this is sufficient for your purposes please, however, do not hesitate to contact me direct if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Adam McVey  
SNP Councillor, Leith  
Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council