



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Councillors James Stockan,
Roddie Mackay and Steven
Coutts
Executive Services Department
Shetland Islands Council

**Local Government and Communities
Committee**

T3.60

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30 July 2018

Dear Councillors James Stockan, Roddie Mackay and Steven Coutts,

Thank you for your joint letter of 6 July 2018 informing the Committee of your proposals for an Islands Deal. I wish you every success in securing a deal which is beneficial for all.

As you state in your letter, the Local Government and Communities Committee has a strong interest in Scotland's Regional Deals and recently carried out an inquiry into City Region Deals. The Committee's report and responses from the Scottish and UK Government are available on the Committee's City Deal webpage here:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/104236.aspx>

Following consideration of the responses to the report, the Committee agreed that it would like to continue to monitor the progress of Scotland's city deals and regional partnerships with interest, in particular around:

- Delivery progress;
- Selection processes and transparency;
- Coverage and displacement; and
- Monitoring and evaluation.

The Committee received its first update from the Scottish Government at its meeting on 13 June 2018. The transcript of that meeting is available here:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11602&mode=pdf>

I am grateful for your offer to provide the Committee with further information on your plans for the Islands Deal. In relation to our next steps in scrutiny, the Committee will take oral evidence from the UK Government and representatives of the Glasgow City Region City Deal and Stirling and Clackmannanshire Deal at future meetings following the Summer Recess, before considering its next steps.

A common thread of the Committee's work has been on how regional deals can be beneficial to and influenced by the communities they serve, as well as how the Scottish Government's commitment to inclusive growth is built on across regional deals. I would therefore be grateful if you could provide further information on:

- your plans for community engagement and how local people will be involved in the development and selection of projects in their areas; and
- your plans to ensure that the deal contributes to inclusive growth.

In providing your answer, it would be helpful if you could provide further information on any monitoring frameworks that will be put in place to ensure the appropriate levels of engagement have been undertaken, how you plan on measuring the long-term benefits of the projects which have been selected, and how the impact on inclusive growth will be monitored.

I would be grateful if you could provide this information by close on Friday 31 August. If, in the meantime, you have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to contact the Clerks on the contact details provided above.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Doris". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Doris MSP

Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee