



**News Release: Friday 17 July 2020**

### **Tay Cities Joint Committee approve the Culture & Tourism Investment Programme – Hospitalfield Project - Full Business Case**

Today, Friday 17 July, the Tay Cities Joint Committee approved the Culture & Tourism Investment Programme – Hospitalfield Project - Full Business Case. This project is the first Full Business Case to be approved by the Joint Committee and approves the allocation of £5.5million funding from Scottish Government to the project subject to the Tay Cities Deal being signed and a further £5.5million of complementary match funding being secured.

The Scottish Government via the Tay Cities Region Deal has agreed to make available up to £37 million to support a Regional Culture and Tourism Investment Programme that will invest in key economic assets in culture and tourism. This investment of £5.5million will support a visionary redevelopment plan for [Hospitalfield House](#).

The project will see the very special heritage building, which is currently at considerable risk, fully restored and accessible to the public. The Hospitalfield Trust aims to restore and enhance the residential, studio and visitor facilities at Hospitalfield to create a world-class cultural and tourism facility that is financially sustainable, and able to make a significant and long-term impact to the local, regional and National economies.

The Trust appointed renowned architects [Caruso St John](#) to develop the future development plan and vision, which is to create a campus around the original Arts and Crafts building. This will establish Hospitalfield House as a world class and fascinating destination for visitors whilst also creating an excellent studio, exhibition and residential facilities for artists and others to develop their work.

Working alongside will be the prestigious landscape architect [Nigel Dunnett](#), who has helped to move planting design and landscape horticulture from a largely cosmetic role, to one that is also central to the discussion of how to address the major problems of climate change and a sustainable future. He has worked on

planting schemes such as the London Olympic Games, the gardens at the Barbican and the Buckingham Palace Diamond Garden, amongst other major projects.

Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Secretary Michael Matheson, said:

"I am pleased the Scottish Government is able to support this exciting scheme which will guarantee the future of an iconic building, create a world class facility and provide an economic asset. These are challenging times and the culture and tourism sector has an important role to play in our economic recovery.

"The Hospitalfield Project is part of the Scottish Government's wider commitment to the region, which has seen us contribute £150 million to the Tay Cities Region Deal."

Leader of Angus Council, Cllr David Fairweather, who is also a member of the Tay Cities Joint Committee, said:

"Hospitalfield House is a place of huge significance in Angus and I am delighted to see its future assured, not only as an outstanding visitor attraction but as a centre of artistic excellence with an international reputation. This is an extremely exciting, visionary plan which has attracted talented, internationally renowned contributors. It is exactly the calibre of project that the Tay Cities Deal was designed to support, and I would like to congratulate the committee on approving this scheme. I am sure that Patrick Allan-Fraser would be delighted that his legacy will continue to have a lasting impact on Scotland's contribution to the artistic world.

Ms Lucy Byatt, Director of Hospitalfield House said:

"The Tay Cities Deal offers an opportunity to realise an extremely ambitious future for Hospitalfield; the Trust has a vision for a cultural organisation fit for the 21st century, a model that provides access to the heritage story of the site and continues to provide time and space for artists across disciplines, yet rooted in the visual arts, to make and show new work.

"This is a visionary plan for a working dynamic campus. It is so exciting to have access to the funds to creating the world class facility that we have been planning. With much credit to the great designers and architects that we have been working with, together we are creating a very special cultural destination in Angus that will contribute so much to the local, regional and national economy. This could not be more wonderful news...."

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## **Note for Editors**

**For more information contact:** [Communications@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Communications@angus.gov.uk)

**The five-year capital investment programme be delivered in three phases:**

- **Phase 1 – Accommodation, Artist Studios and the Garden, Fernery and Café**

This phase will see the restoration of existing and the creation of new visitor accommodation, will made widely available beyond the artistic programme. Also included within this phase is the restoration of the historic 19th and 20th century artist studios and the development of a new, digital 21st century digital

studio and, finally, the restoration of the 19th century glazed fernery and walled gardens along with the creation of a glass house café in the south facing corner of the walled gardens.

- **Phase 2 – Mortuary Chapel**

This phase will see the restoration of a remarkable building and enable it to be open and accessible to the public.

- **Phase 3 – The House, the Visitor Experience and the Collections**

This phase will involve the restoration of the House and the heritage collections alongside the development of a new reception building, study centre, shop and gallery exhibition space.

### **Tay Cities Region Deal:**

- Tay Cities Region Deal is a £300 million investment in region by Scottish Government and UK Government, The Scottish Government is providing £150 million towards the programme and is fully funding the 'Culture and Tourism Investment Programme.

The 'Heads of Terms' for the Deal were signed in November 2018 and set the parameters of the investment, which aims to transform the regional economy by delivering inclusive growth in the region.

For more information on the Tay Cities Deal: <https://www.taycities.co.uk/>

### **Regional Culture and Tourism Investment Programme**

- The Scottish Government via the Tay Cities Region Deal has agreed to make available up to £37 million to support a Regional Culture and Tourism Investment Programme that will invest in key economic assets in culture and tourism. The Scottish Government expects this to include an investment of up to £10 million in Pitlochry Festival Theatre.
- The Culture & Tourism Programme is an important element of the Tay Cities Deal. It will help to build on the significant culture and tourism offering across the Tay Cities Region, bring new attractions to the area and increase both the cultural offering and visitor numbers. It will also help to create jobs and link to skills opportunities in the hospitality and tourism sector. This will directly align with the recently approved Tourism Strategy for the Region and has offerings related to the recently launched Cultural Strategy for Scotland.
- The overarching objective of the Programme is to contribute to a wider Tay Cities ambition to be a highly desirable place to live, work, visit and invest in, by building on and strengthening the region's existing culture and tourism offering. Its ambition is clear - to deliver a world class region with world class culture and visitor experiences in world class destinations.

## Hospitalfield House

- Hospitalfield House is an artist's house, located on one of Scotland's most significant historic sites on the east coast of Scotland. Between 1843 and 1890, the artist Patrick Allan-Fraser created the House, which is now widely regarded as one of Scotland's most valued Arts and Crafts houses. The outstanding collections within Hospitalfield include 19th century paintings, drawings and sculpture and works on paper.
- On his death in 1890, Allan-Fraser bequeathed his estate in Trust to support artists and Hospitalfield became one of Scotland's first art colleges, making a significant contribution to the story of 20th century Scottish art. This project will enable this story to continue into the 21st century.

For more information please visit <http://hospitalfield.org.uk/>

## Glazed café perspectives





**Kitchenette and WCs**

