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Great British Railways National Headquarters
Expression of Interest submission
Fife

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<p>1. Context Describe the location of your application and your proposed headquarters site</p>	<p>Describe the geographical area covered by the application and why it should be considered for hosting the headquarters?</p>	<p>The Kingdom of Fife is located on the East coast of Scotland and is well connected by rail, road, river and air travel opening up the Kingdom to national and international opportunities, collaborations and alliances. Steeped in heritage and often at the forefront of innovation and engineering, Fife is home to 3 iconic bridges: the Forth Road bridge, the Queensferry Crossing and the UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) Forth Bridge respectively. The latter is a structure which still commands worldwide attention more than 130 years after it opened. In brief, the socio-economic opportunities of the WHS are being realised via a UNESCO approved Action/Management Plan in addition to regionally, via Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal Regional Prosperity Framework (Sept 2021) and respective local authority tourism or economic development strategies.</p> <p>Fife's enviable location secures its position as a commutable region for 70% of Scotland's central population belt and with first-class lifestyle amenities, over 100 miles of beautiful coastline, high quality affordable housing, excellent schools, internationally recognised further and higher education establishments including the University of St Andrews, Fife is rapidly becoming a location of choice for organisations, individuals and families.</p> <p>As the 3rd largest local authority in Scotland with a population of 365,000 people, Fife is located within two City Regions and is a connected, innovative, resourceful, resilient and an attractive location with a strong history of regional collaborations, productivity and being globally competitive in delivering value for money strategic investments.</p> <p>Three of Fife's four UK parliamentary constituency areas are being put forward for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenrothes • Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath • Dunfermline and West Fife <p>Within each of these areas, strategic investment sites have been identified which harness the economic and social attributes of Fife, not least the regions strong manufacturing business base but also the</p>
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		<p>physical and digital infrastructure benefits that Fife can provide. ensuring that the proposed HQ operation are fully enabled for connectivity and collaboration – digitally and in person.</p>
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<p>1. Context cont. Describe the location of your application and your proposed headquarters site</p>	<p>Who else is involved in developing and supporting your application?</p>	<p>The development of this application aligns to Fife’s Local Outcome Improvement (LOIP) Plan: Plan 4 Fife which was approved in 2017 and is developed and supported by Fife’s strategic partnership board which includes lead partners: Fife Council, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Department of Work and Pensions, NHS Fife, Fife’s Business Community, Fife College, University of St Andrews amongst others.</p> <p>To deliver the LOIP we work via corporate Leadership structures which are place or people based collaborative partnerships encompassing public and third sector organisations, community anchor organisations and links to the private sector. Each seek to support holistic socio-economic development with work aligning nationally to Levelling Up objectives and missions including “Closing the Productivity Gap” and “Pride of Place”</p> <p>Developing this application supports the work of the Fife Partnership Board but also aligns with the strong and diverse business base across Fife much of which is responsible for or involved with innovation and research or development activity. Prospective locations have therefore been identified with this in mind and where relevant, in collaboration with industry and landowners.</p>
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<p>Describe the proposed site(s) for the national headquarters</p>	<p>High level scoping has identified a number of sites which have potential for GBRHQ development. All are capable of superfast digital infrastructure and are located close to customers, collaborators, supply chains and available workforce in addition to being served by public transport corridors including the M90 motorway, A92 and critically an inter and intra rail network comprising the East Coast mainline and Fife Circle respectively.</p> <p>We have identified 7 strategic investment sites within Fife's UK Parliamentary constituencies which have potential to meet the GBRHQ criteria.</p> <p>Our Invest Fife Team would work with GBR to support full appraisal and delivery of the proposed Headquarters. Within Mid Fife this includes the progression and publicity of a Mid Fife Strategic Investment Prospectus detailing a range of available sites and candidate locations. Within South-West Fife including Inverkeithing and Rosyth, we would align existing marketing collateral and joint working with Scottish Enterprise/SDI to ensure that sites identified gain regional or national recognition.</p>
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<p>1. Context cont. Describe the location of your application and your proposed headquarters site</p>	<p>Describe the proposed site(s) for the national headquarters <i>cont.</i></p>	<p>Invest Fife have a proven track record supporting investment value of £547M and upwards of 5000 new jobs over the last 10 years. They offer a 'gateway' service co-ordinating Council or partnership support including regulatory and financial assistance signposting.</p> <p>This activity to date, relevant to rail investment, has included progressing with partners proposals for strategic investment at Longannet which culminated in the Scottish Government committing to establish a 'rail research hub' within Transport Scotland's 'rail decarbonisation action plan' published in July 2020. This complemented a proposal, at that time, for the construction of a UK production headquarters for an international high-speed train operator (Talgo). It also recognised Fife's locational potential in east central Scotland to serve national and international networks and to enable the roll out of electrified rail networks and to serve freight or passenger needs.</p> <p>We have highlighted just a few potential sites below giving an indication of scope and scale of our available investment locations from sites more suitable to design and build to premium flagship office space ready now to accelerate location and growth of GBRHQ.</p> <p><u>Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Constituency</u> Kirkcaldy is steeped in history and is the birthplace of Adam Smith, the Father of Economics (1723) and Sandford Fleming, the Scottish Canadian inventor and engineer (1827) who promoted the worldwide use of standard time zones and 24 hours clocks, which of course has been critically important to rail travel timetabling and operation. He is also credited with designing much of Intercolonial Railway of Canada. Both these "sons of Kirkcaldy" helped shape the modern world. A key site for consideration would be:</p> <p>John Smith Business Park (JSBP) – located 25 miles from Edinburgh is Fife's premier business park. An established business park located close to Junction 2A of the A92 JSBP is already home to several business and organisation HQs. JSBP is located in the Chapel area of Kirkcaldy within 3 miles northwest of the town centre and East Coast Main Line Kirkcaldy Train Station which is supported by active travel networks including bike hire and secure storage and accessible cycle paths (20 minute cycle from station to business park) as well as frequent buses from the station to Chapel area (every 10 minutes)</p>
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<p>1. Context cont. Describe the location of your application and your proposed headquarters site</p>	<p>Describe the proposed site(s) for the national headquarters <i>cont.</i></p>	<p>Iona House located at JSBP would be our immediate offer to GBR. This is superfast broadband enabled 4 storey premium flagship office building comprising a total of 2597.5 sq m. which can be available on a whole building or floor and floor basis. This flagship space is ready now in move in condition with enabled video conferencing facilities and meeting rooms and digital infrastructure in place to enable multiple data processing and payments transactions. Average building rental rates based on recent occupiers and those across the rest of JSPB, are competitive and offer excellent value for money. Kirkcaldy has transitioned from traditional industries including Nairn’s linoleum production, with the brand’s global exports helping to coin the phrase “Kirkcaldy the town that floored the world” and Kirkcaldy is fondly also referenced in the famous “Boy in the Train” poem by Mary Campbell Smith. Sites such as Nairn’s former factories have been cleared or redeveloped and re-used which recognises the towns’ ability to transform. This work has been strongly supported by the community, taking part in several development charrettes with many active third sector anchor organisations, the private sector and the wider community helping to deliver and promote this success.</p> <p>Kirkcaldy has transitioned from traditional industries including Nairn’s linoleum production, with the brand’s global exports helping to coin the phrase “Kirkcaldy the town that floored the world” and Kirkcaldy is fondly also referenced in the famous “Boy in the Train” poem by Mary Campbell Smith. Sites such as Nairn’s former factories have been cleared or redeveloped and re-used which recognises the towns’ ability to transform. This work has been strongly supported by the community, taking part in several development charrettes with many active third sector anchor organisations, the private sector and the wider community helping to deliver and promote this success.</p>
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<p>1. Context cont. Describe the location of your application and your proposed headquarters site</p>	<p>Describe the proposed site(s) for the national headquarters <i>cont.</i></p>	<p><u>Dunfermline and West Fife Constituency</u> Dunfermline is the Ancient Capital of Scotland, burial place of Kings and Queens, the Birthplace of Andrew Carnegie, situated just 30 minutes from Edinburgh, amidst wonderful views of the UNESCO World Heritage Forth Bridge, and beautiful coastlines and countryside, described as <i>“an undersold gem of a city, with wonderful architecture and lots to see”</i>. Our high-level scoping has identified four potential sites within this constituency, all are well connected and close to Inverkeithing station on the East Coast Main line and the Forth Bridge Heritage sites. Two of these identified sites are detailed below:</p> <p>1. Queensferry One Development Land - has unrivalled connectivity and benefits from direct port, rail and motorway access, with quayside access available via two adjacent port operators. Public transport is also available immediately adjacent to the site including the Ferrytoll Park & Ride providing 1,050 car spaces with shuttle buses run to and from Inverkeithing Station. With over 120 acres of developable land, Queensferry One provides one of the largest development sites across the Central Belt of Scotland with a highly skilled workforce in the surrounding area.</p> <p>2. Fife Interchange - Fife Interchange is a major business park with a first-class location on the M90, multiple transport connections and excellent workforce availability. This is already home to Amazon UK's 1.1 million sq. ft fulfilment centre. It is situated in the South of Fife, approximately 3 miles North of the Forth Road Bridge and close to Forth Bridge.</p> <p>Sites across and close to Fife Circle areas including Thornton and Markinch within the Glenrothes constituency and Lochgelly/Cowdenbeath (Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency) are also important. The Fife circle rail line is an internal route with multiple stations including those of the largest communities including Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly and Thornton respectively.</p> <p>As illustrated within the recently published Mid Fife prospectus (2021) the opportunity does exist to use this existing rail infrastructure to integrate these existing communities sustainably with the wider population base of Fife and indeed Scotland. In addition, the future enhancement perhaps including electrification of this line offers an opportunity for new technologies such as hydrogen to be piloted for example with freight</p>
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		<p>connections to utilise the direct rail link to Grangemouth in central Scotland and beyond. This innovation would ensure that a co-located GBRHQ directly benefited and that future mutual benefits arose.</p>
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<p>1. Context cont. Describe the location of your application and your proposed headquarters site</p>	<p>What benefits do you expect your town/city will gain from accommodating the headquarters?</p>	<p>The socio-economic benefits of the headquarters locating in Fife would be spread across the whole of Fife but particularly across the Mid Fife corridor as an area which lags behind the rest of Fife and Scotland but would be a key commutable area for jobs directly linked to the HQ.</p> <p>Opportunities for growth within the supply chain would also be created helping to level up opportunity, boost productivity, pay and jobs and close the productivity gap via tailored and integrated employability programmes created by the demand generated directly from the HQ and indirectly via supply chain, backfill, increased demand on associated services and other demand led business growth, all of which would to help spread the opportunities and grow the private sector business base as well as improving local community living and pride of place.</p> <p>Fife would seek to include GBR within our existing relationship management and civic/corporate engagement systems ensuring that mutual benefit can be gained from the promotion and profile raising of the organisation and of the region respectively. The hosting of the GBRHQ would add to the existing network of nationally headquarters organisations within Fife including the R&A, Babcock Marine, Raytheon, Harlland and Wolfe, Ingenico and others including Diageo. These business networks will increase the acumen and profile of Fife in addition to providing opportunities for business to business and supply chain engagement and additional employment.</p>
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<p>What do you think makes your town/city best suited as the location for Great British Railways' national headquarters?</p>	<p>Fife is an attractive location for GBRHQ. The Kingdom is easily accessible by rail, road, river and air connectivity to Scotland, the UK and internationally.</p> <p>Fife is home to globally recognised history and heritage, not least Forth Bridge (known to rail engineers simply as 'The Bridge') with Network Rail looking to develop The Forth Bridge Experience - a Sydney Harbour Bridge type adventure walk onto the Forth Bridge with visitor centre situated at the south end of the Forth Bridge. The Forth Bridge also features in the UNESCO Trail with the Forth Bridge being one of the steps in this recently launched UNESCO Trail and Scotland is the first country in the world to launch such a trail. The Forth Bridge team is an active participant on social media for this trail using the #UNESCOTrail</p> <p>Fife is digitally connected with superfast broadband and is home to innovation and collaborations and has been at the forefront of above average Scottish manufacturing business activity which has given rise to diversified sector activity including advanced manufacturing and robotics as evidenced by the recently progressed Babcock International commitment to establish an Arroll Gibb Innovation Campus (AGIC) development at Rosyth waterfront and port/s.</p>
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<p>1. Context cont. Describe the location of your application and your proposed headquarters site</p>	<p>What do you think makes your town/city best suited as the location for Great British Railways' national headquarters? <i>cont.</i></p>	<p>AGIC is to be a global centre of excellence, focused on serving the marine (ships and offshore), nuclear and energy transition sectors, and on building related knowledge and skills.</p> <p>Fife's innovation activity has also enabled Fife to be at the forefront of renewable sector development including and perhaps of critical interest to GBR the development, production and storage of Hydrogen at Methil Energy Park and Westfield respectively. This is not only leading in climate change but has the potential for high efficiencies in low carbon rail technology clusters including electrification. It also links to academia and innovation networks including that of University of St Andrews and Partners who at Eden Campus in the North of Fife are helping to build hydrogen transport networks and partnering regionally to explore future collaborations in the fields of sustainable mobility and low carbon energy.</p> <p>The accessibility of our rural and urban places and quality of life including quality affordable homes enables an attractive and sought-after work/life balance. This had been recognised with Fife winning accolades for outdoor activity experiences and in the region consistently being identified as a regional if not national asset with award winning beaches, forests, and greenspace.</p>
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<p>2. Levelling Up Describe how your application will align with and demonstrate Levelling Up</p>	<p>What is your vision for levelling up your local area? What is currently underway to deliver this?</p>	<p>Our vision is to work across the Levelling up objectives, all of which are applicable and demonstrate evidence-based need across the Fife parliamentary constituencies under consideration in this application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife’s overall employment rate lags the Scottish rate and there are significant sub-regional variations – the employment rates in the Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath Constituencies are lower than both the Fife and Scottish rates. • The Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath Constituencies also have considerably higher rates of economic inactivity and people claiming out-of-work benefits than Fife and Scotland as a whole. • The average weekly earnings of people living in the Glenrothes Parliamentary Constituency are considerably lower than both the Fife and Scottish averages. • The earnings of people who work in the Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath Constituencies (but do not necessarily live there) are below the Fife and Scottish earnings. • Fife’s GVA per capita lags the figure for Scotland as a whole. <p>Underway we deliver the following programmes to help develop business opportunities at home and overseas and develop our existing and future workforce:</p> <p>Trade Development Programme exists support businesses participate or visit trade shows and exhibitions.</p> <p>The Supplier Development Programme supports businesses to win work and grow their business</p> <p>Culture of Enterprise linking education to industry. The programme helps inspire future entrepreneurs by developing enterprising skills within young people throughout primary and secondary education. This includes growing their commercial awareness, decision making, problem-solving and communication skills</p> <p>Developing Young Workforce supporting a range of key sectors including developing STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) within our young and developing workforce</p> <p>Fife is part of two city deal programmes Edinburgh and Southwest Scotland and Tay Cities.</p>
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<p>2. Levelling Up cont. Describe how your application will align with and demonstrate Levelling Up</p>	<p>What is your vision for levelling up your local area? What is currently underway to deliver this? <i>cont.</i></p>	<p>The City Region Deals will deliver inclusive growth across the region through housing, innovation, transport, skills and culture. The investment will contribute towards 41,000 new homes, 21,000 jobs, and improving the skills of an estimated 14,700 people.</p> <p>Opportunities Fife Partnership (OFP) this is a Fife's Local Employability Partnership. The OFP's current strategy identifies five key strategic outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased employment opportunities for Fife Residents • More people with employability issues in secure, healthy, paid employment • Fife's youth employment rate exceeds the Scottish average • Fife has a better qualified workforce with relevant skills for work • Fife's key sectors are better supported in terms of skills and employment <p>Fife's Economic Strategy (FES) 2017 -2027 sets out that amongst other challenges Fife needs to tackle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport and digital connectivity • The need for growth to be fair and inclusive and tackle the entrenched geographical disparities in employment and opportunity within Fife, in particular the continuing poor performance of the economy in Mid-Fife • Youth unemployment and a closer working relationship between education and businesses. • The importance of a Living Wage and rewarding, secure and satisfying work in reducing poverty and health inequalities <p>There has been good progress towards addressing the challenges identified within the FES for example via the Mid Fife Prospectus and the Living Wage Towns and employers' accreditations across the Kingdom supported by Fife Council. In addition, via programmes such as Developing Young Workforce with the mission of being a vital link for businesses and education to engage, inspire and develop the young workforce of Fife and Culture of Enterprise. Glenrothes in Fife was named the Most Enterprising place in Britain in 2018 recognising the strides made in enterprise-led regeneration and in transitioning from a period of economic challenge to one with a strong business-base and industrial innovation.</p>
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		<p>Strategic investment in Fife and the location of GBRHQ would help continue to drive the Levelling Up work across the Kingdom.</p>
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<p>2. Levelling Up cont. Describe how your application will align with and demonstrate Levelling Up</p>	<p>What levelling up opportunities do you believe could be created for your town/city that are linked to the headquarters?</p>	<p>Locating the GBRHQ in Fife will help support Fife in levelling up ambitions particularly in the areas where we lag behind.</p> <p>Fife is a highly commutable location and the GBRHQ would act as a catalyst to boost productivity, pay, jobs & living standards as we work to integrate the employment opportunities to skills demand and growth in supply chain opportunities via sector skills gateways and academies helping to spread the opportunities across the Kingdom and beyond acting as an attractor for people to live and work in Fife helping to develop communities and increase local pride within communities,</p> <p>GBRHQ locating in Fife would be supported by our collaborative skills development work.</p> <p>Fife is a partner in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal's Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) Programme. and Fife's Chief Executive is the Chair of the IRES Board, Fife also provides the lead for the Skills Programme Management Office. The IRES Programme is a £25m, eight year change programme designed to promote greater collaboration between the six regional partners, and the affiliated FE/HE sector.</p> <p>Alongside these wider enabler projects, the IRES Programme is supporting a Workforce Mobility Project, designed to support greater access to jobs and training opportunities throughout the city region through improved travel and two Skills Gateways designed to promote access to higher skilled, higher paid roles. Further examples of where the locating the GBR HQ in Fife would both help enable more opportunities for Fife and benefit from this work are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Digital Driven Innovation Skills Gateway, led by the University of Edinburgh, this is developing training resources and conducting outreach to promote skills and careers in occupations linked to digital innovation and supporting organisations to better collate, analyse and use data more effectively to make relevant choices for their organisation. • The Housing, Construction and Infrastructure Skills Gateway, led by Edinburgh Napier University is working with local employability partners to promote careers in design, engineering and construction, particularly to those from disadvantaged parts of the city region are including Fife
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		<p>supporting progression into sustainable careers and promoting new construction innovations linked to the green economy and retrofitting to support the carbon zero agenda.</p>
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<p>2. Levelling Up cont. Describe how your application will align with and demonstrate Levelling Up</p>	<p>What levelling up opportunities do you believe could be created for your town/city that are linked to the headquarters? <i>cont.</i></p>	<p>These regional collaborations provide the infrastructure to support GBR to locate within Fife accessing skills ready and developing skills workforce and in doing so helping Fife and our regional collaborative areas to level up.</p>
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<p>3. Connected and easy to get to</p> <p>Describe how your location is well connected to the rest of Great Britain and how people will access your site</p>	<p>How would employees and visitors be able to access the National Headquarters, via rail routes and other sustainable modes?</p>	<p>Fife is well connected by rail served by both the East Coast main line and the Fife Circle alongside road networks serviced by public transport and interchanges to shorten the car journey. Fife is home to one of the UK's most comprehensive cycle routes with 300 miles (500km) of cycle route for both leisure and commuter routes in and around towns. This robust and developing attractive active travel network encourage walking, cycling and wheeling all of which are available to residents, visitors, commuters and employees.</p> <p>Fife is one of 8 local authority partners within the South East Scotland Regional Transport Partners (SEStrans) and aims to lead the development of a transportation system for South East Scotland, enabling business to function effectively and provide everyone living in the region with improved access to healthcare, education, public services and employment opportunities.</p> <p>The region is also supporting ESES City Deal regional endeavours currently to improve workforce mobility with a pilot exercise being devised to integrate existing employers, business interests and further or higher education premises with multi modal transport options, helping in turn to lower carbon costs, reduce commuting times and to address the climate emergency.</p>

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	<p>How connected is your location to and from other nations and regions of Great Britain?</p>	<p>Fife is well connected by rail, road, river and air travel.</p> <p>Fife is well served by trains with 19 stations serving the local and national network. Several Fife stations are located on the East Coast main line which links London with Aberdeen while a number of stations are also served by the main highland line to Perth, Inverness and beyond. Commuters are also well serviced with direct trains to Glasgow Queen Street and a very regular service to and from Edinburgh's Gyle, Haymarket and Waverley stations.</p> <p>Therefore, Fife is well connected by rail to other nations and regions with Fife to London taking circa 6 hours by train.</p>
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<p>3. Connected and easy to get to cont.</p> <p>Describe how your location is well connected to the rest of Great Britain and how</p>	<p>How connected is your location to and from other nations and regions of Great Britain? <i>cont.</i></p>	<p>Fife already accommodates national and internationally headquartered companies attracted by the regions very close proximity to both Edinburgh and Dundee airports both of which offer private and charter services to cities across the UK or beyond.</p> <p>Fife also has a professional and well-appointed marine port/s locations offering deep water berthing for passenger cruise ship or trade vessels at Rosyth. In addition, Burntisland, Kirkcaldy and Methil have similar capability with the former two locations accommodating pilot hovercraft services in recent years proving the sea borne integration cross Forth to Edinburgh and East Lothian.</p>
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people will access your site	How will your suggested sites be equally accessible to all members of society, in line with Public Sector Equality Duties?	All of the suggested sites will be accessible and promote equality of opportunity for access to and engagement with services. Risk and equality impact assessment/s will be carried out on prospective locations that are identified and Fife Council will work with others to ensure that regulatory impacts including those on business are identified and mitigated where relevant.
	Demonstrate how your location has supported successful collaboration between local authorities, business and other organisations across the UK to further social, economic and transport objectives.	Railway enhancement is a regional priority and is critically important to Fife both passenger and freight. Fife Council, Transport Scotland, Network Rail, the community and industry partners have worked closely to develop the investment and delivery programme for the Levenmouth Reinstated Railway. This £116million project will see the reinstatement of Levenmouth Rail Link which will provide the area with a major boost to economic sustainability and connectivity and will deliver opportunities for local people - unlocking further access to education, culture, entertainment, and employment options, as well attracting new business and investment.

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<p>3. Connected and easy to get to cont.</p> <p>Describe how your location is well connected to the rest of Great Britain and how people will access your site</p>	<p>Demonstrate how your location has supported successful collaboration between local authorities, business and other organisations across the UK to further social, economic and transport objectives <i>cont.</i></p>	<p>Fife as part of SEStran Regional Transport Strategy Partnership and as published SEStran RTS refresh (2015) recognises that the SEStran area is a key driver of the Scottish Economy. Key business sectors within the SEStran area include Financial Services, Tourism, the Knowledge economy, Creative Industries and Retailing, all of which are crucially dependent on the ability of people, goods and ideas to connect easily locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. The importance of connectivity in supporting the competitive position of any major city-region is well recognised: “A connected city ... has a reliable, resilient infrastructure with strong transport and digital links to its workforce, its supply chain and its markets. Rail, road, sea, air and digital infrastructure link the city with its region, with neighbouring cities and with international markets”</p> <p>Fife continues to collaborate and work with strategic partners to influence, guide, co-ordinate and deliver to ensure our transport and digital infrastructure keeps pace with evolving technology and international standards, is climate ready and resilient and enables inclusive access for all.</p> <p>Underpinning all our connectivity requirements is the need for a sustainable approach that will support the long-term competitive position of the area through resource efficiency, social inclusion, and minimum environmental impact. The rail network has a key part to play in continuing to achieve these ambitions through rail gateways, developments, and improvements.</p>
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<p>4. Opportunities for Great British Railways</p> <p>Showcase the opportunities your location offers Great British Railways</p>	<p>How will your location enable Great British Railways to engage with customers, the private sector and wider transport industry?</p>	<p>Fife Council has an excellent reputation and proven capacity for engagement and collaboration. The authority area is covered by regional transport plan authorities namely SEStran and Tactran respectively. As such we can help influence and configure respective transport planning strategies to align with identified needs.</p> <p>During 2022 we are refreshing our Fife Local Transport Strategy, the basis of which is to meet collective customer, sector and transport industry needs whilst still optimising the UK and Scottish Governments focus on modernising rail travel, improving journey times and increasing patronage.</p> <p>Fife has a good network of rail lines and rail stations therefore we can be a test bed for innovation including hydrogen train fuelling pilots and in time, proposals for automated, remotely controlled services, perhaps facilitating freight movements sustainably between locations.</p> <p>Fife is also a candidate location for a forthcoming Green Freeports bid. This is to be led and submitted by Forth Ports championing the Forth Estuary corridor where a prospective estimated 50,000 new jobs could arise and where bolstered trade or tourism activity can occur from growth at Grangemouth, Rosyth, Edinburgh Airport or Leith respectively. This bid will at its core, for Fife include commitments to improved rail freight connections and to better enable passenger movements between strategic employment sites including Mid Fife, Rosyth and Longannet.</p> <p>The Green Freeport bid will progress existing parallel investment commitments from the private sector via Babcock Marine at Rosyth which have committed to the established of the Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus – a centre for advanced manufacturing, nuclear technology development robotics. In tandem this work will progress partnership commitments elsewhere in Fife to develop knowledge exchange corridors, linked to academia research from University of St Andrews, each of which in turn will give GBRHQ access to skills, intelligence, and supply chain expertise. Fife is also arguably uniquely, supporting the reinstalment by Transport Scotland of the former Levenmouth branch rail line ensuring that Scotland’s last urban conurbation not to be served by a direct rail link is so once more; and ensuring that the benefits UK wide of improved rail connectivity are realised for business and population like.</p>
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Fife

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
END		