

ABERDEEN CITY REGION



European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC)

#SCOTLANDISNOW

 **SCOTLAND**

WELCOME TO SCOTLAND

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WELCOME to the Aberdeen City Region.

A region renowned as a global energy hub, always looking ahead, scanning the opportunity horizon – never resting on laurels. This is a can-do place which is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

A vibrant, entrepreneurial place in the North East of Scotland, the Aberdeen City Region is home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across a variety of sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food and drink.

Aberdeen is regularly ranked in the UK's top ten most attractive cities for foreign direct investment. Investors choose to locate here thanks to the presence of a highly-skilled talent pool, extensive research base and well-connected business environment.

This is a time of transition. Aberdeen is known for its experienced company base and for 50 years of subsea engineering knowledge that has been exported all over the world. Now this region is leveraging its unique assets, capabilities, and digital and technology expertise to deliver a net zero vision and support the global energy transition to a lower carbon future.

This vision brings opportunities in new and emerging sectors, which the region has been quick to pivot towards. With a rapidly growing hydrogen economy, Aberdeen is the UK's leading hydrogen city, establishing itself as a centre of excellence for hydrogen and fuel cell technologies and investing in its hydrogen transport fleet. The region is also home to Scotland's first carbon capture and storage facility, the Acorn project, transporting industrial CO₂ to a safe location under the North Sea.

The Aberdeen City Region also offers opportunities for food and drink investment. As well as being home to the world-renowned Aberdeen Angus cattle, Europe's largest seafood catches are landed at Peterhead Port and Fraserburgh Harbour. The region is now looking to develop foods of the future, putting health, nutrition, security and sustainability at the heart of its growth. A new industry innovation hub, ONE SeedPod, will take the food and drink manufacturing sector from strength to strength, supporting companies through research, technology adoption and productivity.

Almost £16 billion of public and private infrastructure investment is due to be delivered across the Aberdeen City Region over the next decade, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class business location.

When you choose the Aberdeen City Region, you'll discover a region with a vision of opportunity, innovation and ambition. A climate positive region where opportunities abound for like-minded companies to join us on the path to net zero.

So what are you waiting for? Now is the time to invest in the Aberdeen City Region.

ABERDEEN CITY REGION

The Aberdeen City Region has a track record as one of the most investible, productive and entrepreneurial economies in the UK.

Located in the North East of Scotland, the region is made up of the city of Aberdeen and surrounding Aberdeenshire, including the major towns of Peterhead, Inverurie, Fraserburgh and Stonehaven.

More than 490,000, or about 5% of the country's population, live in the area covered by the Aberdeen City Region.



STRATEGICALLY LOCATED AND WELL CONNECTED

The Aberdeen City Region is becoming increasingly accessible to new businesses, thanks to a £4.2 billion programme of transport and infrastructure investment which makes travelling to and around the region easier than ever before. Recently completed works include the western peripheral route, rail improvements, new river crossings, a £20 million airport refurbishment programme and a £420 million South Harbour expansion programme. The region is also at the forefront of net zero connectivity, with the largest and most diverse hydrogen transport fleet in Europe.



AIR

Aberdeen International Airport serves over 30 destinations with great onward connections to the rest of the UK and further afield. The on-site North Sea heliport is one of the busiest civilian heliports in the world.



RAIL

An £8 million redevelopment project has updated Aberdeen's railway station, right in the heart of the city. Frequent fast and reliable services connect to major cities across the UK, including Glasgow, Edinburgh, York, Newcastle and London.



SEA

Ferry services are available daily to Orkney and the Shetland Islands, and ocean freight ferries operate globally, providing efficient transport and short transit times for your products. As a key international hub for energy, trade and tourism, world-class facilities at **Port of Aberdeen** and the new South Harbour can support projects of all sizes. Port of Aberdeen is Scotland's largest berthage port with more than 7,000 metres of quayside. It will become the UK's first net zero port by 2040. Ports at Peterhead and Fraserburgh have an ideal location close to many new ScotWind and INTOG offshore wind projects. **Peterhead Port** is an all-purpose, all-weather deepwater port and its strategic location provides an ideal centre for servicing Hywind Scotland, the world's first floating wind farm. **Fraserburgh Harbour** is a busy and diverse port, ideally positioned for fishing grounds and North Sea energy opportunities, such as the Moray East Offshore Windfarm Marine Base. It is currently being expanded to deliver additional deepwater berthing and quayside facilities.



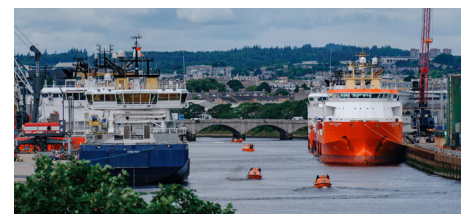
ROAD

The region is well ahead of the game in delivering net zero transport solutions and cutting carbon emissions on its roads. Aberdeen has the world's largest demonstration of hydrogen fuel cell buses, backed by public and private sector organisations from the UK and Europe. The city is also home to two hydrogen refuelling stations for a fleet of buses, cars, HGVs, and vans. Over the lifetime of H2 Aberdeen the city has hosted 85 hydrogen vehicles and expects to host many more.



DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

You can be assured that digital connectivity is a regional priority. The Full Fibre Project, funded by the Aberdeen City Region Deal, provides ultrafast fibre connectivity to the region, meaning your business will benefit from world-class digital infrastructure. Aberdeen has the ambition to become a Smart City and exciting new projects are in progress to deliver 5G networks to support 5G technology opportunities in the region.



THE RIGHT TALENT FOR YOUR BUSINESS

If you are looking for a talent pool of highly-skilled and highly-educated workers, then look no further than the Aberdeen City Region.

The North East of Scotland is home to two world-class universities that have produced entrepreneurs, world business leaders, Nobel prize winners and award-winning scientists, writers, and industrialists. They support research and innovation, supplying talent to companies active in energy, life sciences, architecture, engineering, medicine, health and creative industries. The local colleges also play a crucial role in educating the next-generation workforce, providing employers with a wide spectrum of vocational training and education, aligned to the needs of the businesses in the region.



Established in 1495, the **University of Aberdeen** is ranked in the top 20 in the UK and is one of the oldest English-speaking universities. It has a global presence in higher education and attracts students and staff from around the world, with a diverse community of more than 130 nationalities across its 14,000 students.



North East Scotland College is one of the largest providers of vocational education and training in Scotland, delivering to more than 20,000 full-time, part-time and distance learning students each year. It is proud of its role in the evolution of traditional industries and supporting new and emerging sectors, working with partners to upskill and reskill the region's flexible workforce.



Across the city, **Robert Gordon University (RGU)** is Scotland's top university for employability, with a reputation for producing highly sought-after graduates. Delivering a high-quality vocational education and a relevant demand-led curriculum, RGU works closely with industry and provides employers with the skills they require to grow their business, both nationally and internationally.



Catering for the rural sector, **Scotland's Rural College's Aberdeen Campus** provides a supply of talented graduates equipped with valuable agriculture, organic farming, countryside, and environmental management skills.

“Did you know that 75% of the world's subsea engineering capability is based in this region?”

Aberdeen City Region is a **world class all-energy hub** where local expertise, transferable skills and a well established supply chain are now leading the region towards a low carbon economy.

Initiatives such as the **National Energy Skills Accelerator** and the **Energy Transition Skills Academy**, as well as the University of Aberdeen's **Centre for Energy Transition**, are fundamental to developing the existing energy expertise to meet the emerging opportunities.

So, when you choose to locate in this area, you will not only benefit from a unique workforce of talented engineers, scientists and academics, but also a flexible ecosystem that will respond to the energy skills required, both now and in the future.

KEY INDUSTRY ASSETS



ENERGY TRANSITION

Acorn is Scotland's first and only carbon capture and storage facility. Located at the St Fergus gas terminal, Acorn will repurpose legacy oil and gas infrastructure to transport captured industrial CO₂ to a safe, permanent storage location 2.5 km under the North Sea.

Energy Transition Zone (ETZ), adjacent to Aberdeen's South Harbour development, aims to transform the area into a hub for cleaner energies such as offshore wind and hydrogen. ETZ offers market-ready properties and sites for high-value manufacturing and the wider energy transition supply chain. This coordinated investment will include a Marine Gateway and the creation of specialist campuses for offshore wind, hydrogen, innovation and skills. It is the location for the world's first National Floating Offshore Wind Innovation Centre.

European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC), located in Aberdeen Bay, is one of Scotland's largest offshore wind test and demonstration facilities. The £300 million project comprises eleven turbines and has a capacity of 96.8 MW. In addition to generating electricity, it offers a centre for researching, testing, and developing new technologies for offshore wind power.

Hywind Scotland was the world's first floating wind farm. The £200 million project has installed wind turbines on floating structures at Buchan Deep, 25 km offshore from Peterhead. Hywind now generates enough energy to power 20,000 homes and investors can benefit from the opportunity to expand the supply chain around this area.

Moray East Offshore Windfarm located 70 km off the coast of Fraserburgh, Moray East is a highly competitive offshore wind project and its operations and maintenance (O&M) is serviced by the port at Fraserburgh Harbour.

ScotWind is one of the world's largest commercial offshore wind leasing rounds to date, creating 28 GW of floating and fixed wind developments. With 75% of projects within 100 nautical miles of Aberdeen, and the existing critical mass of diverse and experienced energy companies, the region is ideally placed to support its development. Opportunities exist to support the high-value manufacturing, operations, maintenance and innovation required to deliver ScotWind at pace.

The Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG) leasing round is the first in the world designed to enable offshore wind projects dedicated to supplying electricity to offshore oil and gas platforms. Development rights have been granted for new floating wind capacity, creating exciting new opportunities for innovative companies to help build these projects over the next decade.





DIGITAL TECH

ONE Tech Hub is the anchor point for digital tech. The hub offers an ecosystem that brings together leading entrepreneurial education, digital tech business incubation and support and a community focused on growing and diversifying the region's digital tech sector. Digital tech is a key growth sector in the region and has one of Europe's largest EnergyTech communities, as well as strengths in ClimateTech, AgriTech and FinTech.



FOOD AND DRINK INNOVATION

The James Hutton Institute is one of the biggest research centres in the UK and the first of its type in Europe. The Institute combines strengths in crops, soils and land use, alongside environmental research. This provides a major contribution to the understanding and solving of key global issues, such as food, energy and environmental security.

The Rowett Institute researches the relationship between food, diet, and human health, in particular how food and nutrition can help prevent disease and ill health. The Institute also helps companies gain market edge through the creation of new products, especially in the pharmaceutical and food industry.

The Seafood Transformation Project is a £75 million action and investment plan. The plan aims to stimulate the seafood processing business investment and establish a new seafood park with additional capacity and automation. Additionally, the plan focuses on enhancing environmental performance; accelerating product innovation; and encouraging supply chain collaboration and market development.



HEALTH TECH

The **Kosterlitz Centre for Industrial Engagement** at the University of Aberdeen acts as a one-stop shop for businesses looking to engage with life sciences at the University.

The Aberdeen-based **NHS Research Scotland Permissions Coordinating Centre** offers a coordinated and streamlined process for obtaining Scotland-wide NHS R&D permission for all multi- and single-centre NHS research studies and has coordinated multi-centre clinical trials across Scotland and the UK.

Foresterhill Health Campus is one of Europe's largest integrated clinical, research and teaching sites, encompassing the **Scottish Biologics Facility**. Offering dedicated labs for molecular biology, phage work, antibody expression in mammalian and E. coli systems, purification, and biochemical characterisation (including affinities), alongside labs for functional characterisation of binders.



A POWERHOUSE OF INNOVATION AND INVENTION

If you are thinking skills, knowledge, and research, think the North East of Scotland. This is the place which leads the world in subsea technology, developed treatment for cystic fibrosis and invented the world's first MRI scanner.

Today, the region continues to enhance its reputation for enterprise and innovation, thanks to the innovation-led Aberdeen City Region Deal, which acts as a catalyst for growth. Here are some of the projects which will reinforce the region's position as a thriving centre of excellence for global science, energy and technology:



Net Zero Technology Centre (NZTC) is an industry-led research and knowledge organisation, focused on developing and deploying technology for an affordable net zero energy industry. NZTC co-invests with industry to fund R&D, build a clean energy ecosystem and influence policy to accelerate the transition and close the gap on net zero technologies.



One BioHub on Aberdeen's Foresterhill Health Campus provides start-up, spinout and scaling life sciences businesses with the resources and infrastructure to work on modern health challenges and turn research into innovation. The hub also acts as a catalyst for international collaborations and investment.



One SeedPod is an innovation hub for the food and drink manufacturing industry, working to stimulate higher levels of innovation within existing companies and new startups and spinouts across the wider food supply chain, including from the sustainable agriculture and seafood sectors. The hub will also have a strong focus on the supply chain, provenance, healthy eating, nutraceuticals, and functional foods.



The Global Underwater Hub for subsea engineering, will harness the expertise of the region's oil and gas sector. Dedicated resources will benefit the local supply chain by providing support to develop disruptive technologies, new services and opportunities in the 'Blue Economy.'

Come and join a forward-thinking culture that is constantly pushing the limits of knowledge and see what your business can achieve.



Farmlay, based at Strichen, Fraserburgh, is a leader in automation

BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE

Aberdeen City Region's thriving commercial sector has seen several multi-million pound investments in new, Grade A office space, making it the ideal place to establish corporate headquarters or grow a small business.

You will also find an abundance of business parks throughout the North East of Scotland, so whether you are looking to be near ports, the city centre, international markets or to co-locate with academics and other businesses, you'll find what you need in the Aberdeen City Region.

1. Aberdeen Energy & Innovation Park, located just minutes from Aberdeen city centre, offers a wide choice of cost-effective office options for businesses of all sizes, from co-working communities for start-ups to R&D workshops for major tech companies.

2. Aberdeen Foresterhill Health Campus hosts high-quality, modern facilities for health services, education and research. It is jointly owned by NHS Grampian and the University of Aberdeen.

3. Aberdeen International Business Park (AIBP) occupies the premier out of town office site, strategically located opposite the entrance to Aberdeen Airport and with fast road links to the Scottish motorway network.

4. Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) is the largest dedicated energy transition complex in Scotland with a 250-hectare site in close proximity to Aberdeen South Harbour. ETZ Ltd offers premium development opportunities through a combination of revitalised commercial properties alongside a new release of catalytic greenfield development sites.

5. Marischal Square is the most significant development designed to transform Aberdeen's city centre with a mix of offices, quality restaurants, coffee shops, hotel and open space. Marischal Square has the best BREEAM and EPC ratings of any office building in Aberdeen.

6. The Silver Fin Building offers 132,500 sq ft of sustainable Grade A office space, set over nine levels, and centred in Aberdeen's newly established prime office pitch.

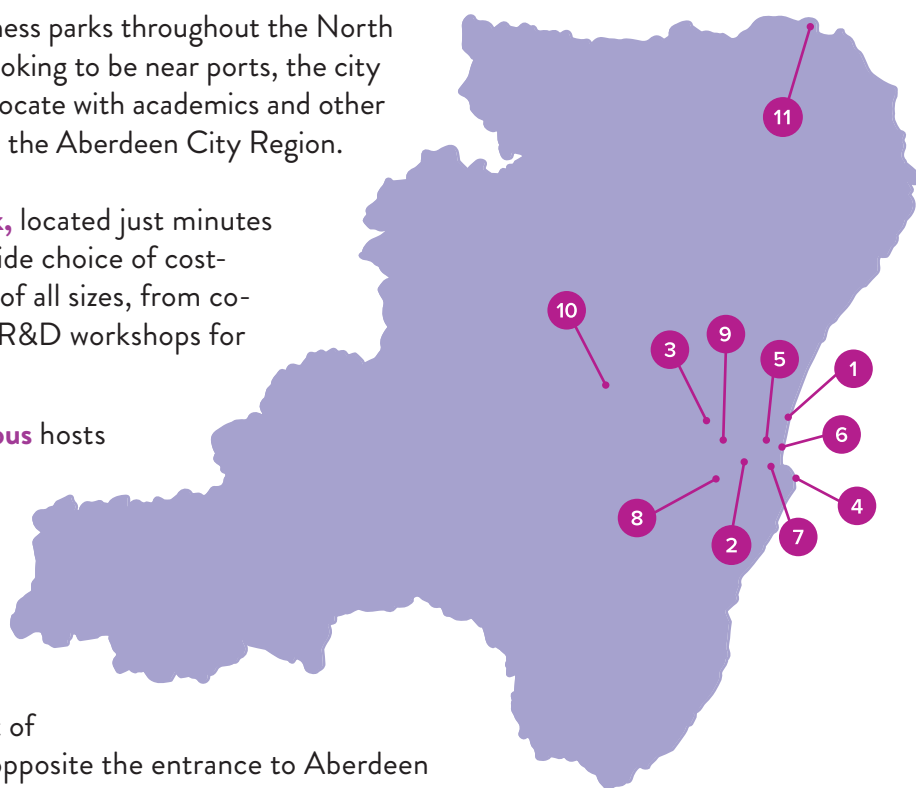
7. ONE TechHub is the home to North East Scotland's digital tech ecosystem and an ambitious cluster of tech start-ups and scaling businesses. The hub offers co-working space, offices and a co-innovation zone for collaboration.

8. Prime 4 Business Park offers high-quality, modern buildings in a strategic location to the west of the city.

9. The Event Complex Aberdeen (TECA) / P&J Live is the largest event complex in the North of Scotland, boasting world-class conference and exhibition facilities, all sustainably powered by local, renewable energy sources. The event complex also comprises two on-site hotels.

10. Thainstone Business Park is a 65-acre business park to the north-west of Aberdeen city centre, suitable for cross-sector businesses including energy, storage and distribution, and trade counter operations.

11. The Faithlie Centre offers mixed-use development, including an enterprise hub with open access, pre-start up advice and business networking facilities. It is housed in Fraserburgh's redeveloped Saltoun Chambers.



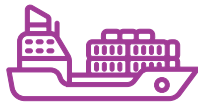
A HIGH-GROWTH REGION

When you choose Aberdeen City Region, you'll join a region that benefits from support and continued investment. Almost £16 billion of public and private infrastructure investment is due to be delivered across the region over the next decade. Underpinned by a refreshed Regional Economic Strategy, the investment is designed to transform the region's economy, natural environment, skilled population, community and cultural identity.

The Aberdeen City Region Deal (ACRD) will deliver more than £1 billion of investment both by the public and private sector in the region's economic future. By working together to support economic growth, the deal will help to retain and attract people to live, work and invest in the region. Moreover, it aims to harness decades of expertise in offshore energy production and put the Aberdeen City Region at the forefront of the global transition to Net Zero.

MAJOR PROJECTS INCLUDE:

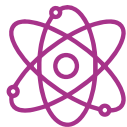
£420 MILLION for the expansion of
ABERDEEN SOUTH HARBOUR,
making it the largest port in
Scotland in terms of berthage.



£59 MILLION
for better
DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY,
including making Aberdeen a Gigabit City.



£67 MILLION
toward the
INDUSTRY INNOVATION HUBS
ONESEEDPOD AND ONEBIOHUB.



20-YEAR
Regional Transport Strategy, aims to
maximise the potential of the expanded
Port of Aberdeen and support the Energy
Transition Zone.



£390 MILLION for the world-leading **NET ZERO**
TECHNOLOGY CENTRE to accelerate the transition to an affordable
NET ZERO NORTH SEA.



NORTH EAST SCOTLAND INVESTMENT ZONE

The North East Scotland Investment Zone (NESIZ) will inject up to £160 million in targeted investment, tax reliefs and other incentives into the region over the next 10 years to stimulate innovation-led business growth, boost regional productivity and create high-value jobs for the future.

The Investment Zone will create a knowledge-intensive cluster and become an attractive investment location for global investors in its priority sectors of **Green Energy** and **Digital Technology**.

There's a lot to look forward to in the Aberdeen City Region, and there's never been a better time to join us.



QUALITY OF LIFE

When you choose to locate in the Aberdeen City Region, you will discover a region where history meets modernity, and nature harmonises with urban life.

Aberdeen, nicknamed the Granite City, is a vibrant harbour city that offers stunning historic architecture, coupled with modern amenities and a rich cultural scene. And you don't have to go far outside the city to discover the rest of Aberdeenshire — an area steeped in beautiful coastlines, rugged cliffs and sandy bays. Perfect for taking advantage of the great outdoors.

You'll find an exceptional quality of life with excellent schools and healthcare facilities. Housing choices in the North East of Scotland span all options from picturesque coastal villages to the bustling city, while investment in infrastructure, regeneration and cultural activities is creating vibrant new communities to live, work, study and do business in.



A golfing paradise – with fifty-five golf courses, one for every week of the year, you will find a variety of options in Aberdeen City Region. From some of the world's most challenging links courses to parkland courses in majestic settings among forests and glens, on great estates, in castle grounds, tree-filled parks and alongside fast-flowing rivers. You will find the UK's highest golf course at Braemar in Royal Deeside and a 9-hole course in the grounds of Balmoral Castle.



Outdoor adventure – from challenging mountain bike trails and hiking four of the five highest mountains in the UK, to paddle-boarding off a coastal village, your outdoor adventure is right here in the North East of Scotland. The Cairngorms National Park is the UK's largest park and a natural playground, offering watersports, snowsports, some incredible walking, cycling routes and the first permanent bridge-based bungee jump in the UK. Winter offers the chance to take to the slopes of Aberdeenshire's mountain passes and valleys at Glenshee, home to the UK's largest lift system, and The Lecht 2090, an area of outstanding natural beauty.



Food & drink tourism – sample world-famous quality local food and drink across the region, from traditional offerings such as renowned Aberdeen Angus beef, or rich traditional shortbread from local suppliers, to craft beer from the revolutionary Brewdog, based in Ellon. You will also find rivers well stocked with some of the best salmon and trout in the world, before you travel onwards to great estates with a wealth of venison and game. And of course, the fields and rivers, clean, clear springs and moorland peat all help to create the perfect dram of whisky.



Cultural renaissance – if it is culture you are after, the North East of Scotland has much to offer. The magnificent surroundings of Aberdeen Art Gallery, with one of the finest art collections in the UK, have recently been returned to their late 19th century glory as part of a £370 million investment in the region's cultural sector, which has also seen the revamping of the Music Hall and His Majesty's Theatre (HMT). Ancient sites and symbols, mysterious standing stones, towering granite walls and legendary castles (we have been home to a staggering 263 castles!) mark Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire as a heartland of Scottish history.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? IT'S TIME TO DISCOVER THE ABERDEEN CITY REGION.

Connected business support from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire local authorities through Invest Aberdeen, in addition to Scotland's enterprise agencies, will be available before, during and after you locate in the North East of Scotland.

We will make the connections you need to ensure your investment goes smoothly, so that you can focus on growing your business.

To find out more about why the Aberdeen City Region might be the right location for your company or to experience the area for yourself, get in touch and we will be happy to arrange this for you.

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN SCOTLAND.



GET IN TOUCH WE'D LOVE TO WELCOME YOU



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