

# Minutes

## Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

### Microsoft Teams

**10.00am, Friday 7 August 2020**

#### **Present:**

**City of Edinburgh Council** – Councillor Adam McVey

**East Lothian Council** – Councillor Norman Hampshire (In the Chair)

**Fife Council** – Councillor David Ross, Councillor David Alexander

**Midlothian Council** – Councillor Russell Imrie

**Scottish Borders Council** – Councillor Shona Haslam

**West Lothian Council** – Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan (substituting for Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick)

**Higher/Further Education Consortium** – Professor Gillian Hogg (substituting for Professor Peter Mathieson)

#### **In attendance:**

Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council

Monica Patterson, Chief Executive, East Lothian Council

Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive, Midlothian Council

Andy Nichol, City Region Deal Programme Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

Graeme Rigg, City Region Deal PMO, City of Edinburgh Council

David Hanna, City Region Deal PMO, City of Edinburgh Council

Ewan Kennedy, Planning and Transport, City of Edinburgh Council

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Craig McCorriston, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration,  
West Lothian Council

Hugh Dunn (Accountable Body)  
Henna Khatoon (Accountable Body)

Jo Blewett, Transport Scotland  
Alison Irvine, Transport Scotland  
Amy Phillips, Transport Scotland

## 1. Minutes

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### Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee of 6 March 2019 as a correct record.
- 2) To note that Transport Scotland had advised that they would provide quarterly financial updates which would be built into the progress reports that are reported to the Joint Committee.

## 2. Work Programme

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The Work Programme was presented and detailed the planned dates for the City Region Deal business case approvals by Joint Committee.

### Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, submitted.)

## 3. Sheriffhall Update

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Alison Irvine and Jo Blewett provided an update on progress with the Sheriffhall project. The draft orders for the scheme had been published in December 2019. Since then, 2790 objections had been received, the majority of which had come from a campaign by the Scottish Green Party. In addition, there were 19 general comments and 4 letters of support. The focus going forward was to respond to these. There had been a recent workshop with partners around the proposals for bus improvement and active travel. It was anticipated that the scheme would take about half of the traffic from the roundabout resulting in an up to 26-minute journey time saving for buses – there were currently about 500 buses going through the roundabout every day. Transport Scotland was also looking at compatibility with trams – the structures would allow for trams with overhead lines, so the scheme was future-proofed in that regard. There had been general agreement at the workshop that removing the bottleneck at Sheriffhall would have a significant positive impact on active travel. The current design of the structure was based on four lanes (two in each direction), but there was space to widen this to six lanes. Clarification was

provided that Transport Scotland and Scottish Government were carrying the risk of any potential spend over the value of the deal.

## **Decision**

To note the presentation.

## **4. South East Scotland Regional Transport Transition Plan**

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Details were provided of measures put in place to address the challenges presented by the easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions and the increasing demand for public transport services at a time when the capacity of those services was severely reduced by social distancing requirements.

At national level, Scottish Government announced its Transport Transition Plan on 26 May, and highlighted the importance of addressing the particular pressures that could be expected in the Edinburgh and Glasgow city regions. In response, the City Region Deal Transport Appraisal Board had been reformed into a Regional Transport Transition Group, comprising officer representatives of the six City Region Deal Councils plus representatives from Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Councils, together with officer representatives from Transport Scotland and the Regional Transport Partnership, SEStran. That Group, in close consultation with public transport operators, had prepared packages of measures for the main transport corridor routes into and out of Edinburgh, with particular emphasis on supporting public transport operations and prioritising capacity of public transport, encouraging greater levels of active travel (walking/wheeling/cycling), and reducing the extent of potentially increased private car use. The need for the implementation of measures was urgent, with a number of priority interventions already being prepared. Of particular importance would be maximising the capacity of the public transport system to manage effectively the expected impacts of the reopening of schools from 11 August.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the Scottish Government's announcement of its national Transport Transition Plan.
- 2) To note the arrangements within this city region for contributing to the national Transport Transition Plan, and the terms of reference for the South East Scotland Region Transport Transition Plan Group as set out at Appendix B to the report.
- 3) To approve the proposed transport transition measures and interventions for this city region as set out at Appendix C to the report.
- 4) To authorise the Transport Transition Plan Group to prepare a collective bid by all of the regional local authority partners for submission to Scottish Government for funding from its Bus Priority Fund.
- 5) To receive further reports on the progress of these measures and interventions together with any additional proposals to support the primary aims of the Transport Transition Plan.

(Reference – report by the Chair, Transport Appraisal Board, ESESCR Deal, submitted.)

## **5. Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Progress Report**

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An update was provided on progress across the City Region Deal programme. The progress report was updated and shared with Government on a weekly basis and was taken to all Board meetings. A RAG (Red, Amber, Green) scale was assigned to programmes and projects by the Programme Management Office (PMO), and scored for inclusive growth and partnership working.

The overall status was assigned as “Amber” and there were no actions required from the Joint Committee.

### **Decision**

To note the progress across the City Region Deal Programme.

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, submitted.)

## **6. Audit of Accountable Body**

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The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) as Lead Authority acts as the Accountable Body for Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. CEC invited internal audit to review the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal funding processes to provide assurance from the outset that the Accountable Body’s processes and operations were robust.

The review of grant claims and payments did not identify any errors, and review of operational controls including those in place to prevent and detect fraud and manage any potential conflicts of interest were deemed sufficient.

Internal Audit had concluded and reported that the Accountable Body’s processes were effective. They noted that the control environment and governance and risk management frameworks had been adequately designed and were operating effectively, providing assurance that risks were being effectively managed. The report was approved at CEC’s Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee meeting in July.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note that the City of Edinburgh Council’s Internal Audit had determined the Accountable Body’s processes to be ‘effective’ noting that the “control environment and governance and risk management frameworks have been adequately designed and are operating effectively, providing assurance that risks are being effectively managed, and the Council’s objectives should be achieved.”
- 2) To note that the Internal Audit findings were approved by the City of Edinburgh Council’s Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee meeting on Tuesday 7 July 2020.

(Reference – report by the Chief Finance Officer, Accountable Body/Head of Finance, City of Edinburgh Council, submitted).