

Minutes

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 15 January 2021

Present:

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillors Adam McVey and Cammy Day

East Lothian Council – Councillors Norman Hampshire and John McMillan

Fife Council – Councillors John Beare and Altany Craik (In the Chair)

Midlothian Council – Councillor Russell Imrie

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Stuart Bell

West Lothian Council – Councillor Tom Conn

Higher/Further Education Consortium – David Brown, Angela Cox and Simon Earp

Regional Enterprise Council – Garry Clark, Robert Carr and Nile Istephan

In attendance:

Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council

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

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

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

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

Keith Winter, Executive Director of Enterprise and Environment, Fife Council

Kirstin Marsh, Project Manager, Strategic Growth and City Deals, Fife Council

Rob Dickson, Executive Director, Scottish Borders Council

Ian Aikman, Chief Planning Officer, Scottish Borders Council

Derek Oliver, Chief Officer, Midlothian Council

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

Douglas Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place, East Lothian Council
Ritchie Somerville, Head of Strategy, University of Edinburgh Data Driven Innovation Programme
Veronica MacMillan, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Apologies

Councillors Cathy Muldoon (West Lothian Council), Euan Robinson (Scottish Borders Council) and Peter Smaill, Midlothian Council

1. Appointment of Convener

Decision

- 1) To appoint Councillor Altany Craik as Interim Convener of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee.
- 2) To note that that Councillor Craik would not be formally appointed as Convener of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee until this had been agreed by the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee at the next meeting being held on 5 March 2021.

2. Elected Member Oversight Committee Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Oversight Committee were presented for approval.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Elected Member Oversight Committee Terms of Reference.
- 2) To agree that a work programme would be developed for the Elected Member Oversight Committee for consideration at the next meeting.

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

3. Regional Spatial Strategy for Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region

Committee considered a presentation from Craig McCorrison, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, West Lothian Council on the Regional Spatial Strategy for Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region.

The following points were made:

- The National Planning Framework 4 would replace Strategic Development Plan which would lead to some challenges. Regional housing requirements

would no longer be carried out through Housing Needs and Demand Assessments and it was currently unclear on what methodologies would be used to determine targets.

- Interim Regional Spatial Strategies (IRSS) had been carried out, and the SESplan Joint Committee agreed on this region's IRSS in autumn 2020.
- The main reason for SDP2 being rejected was related to transport and this spatial strategy was based on the spatial strategy of SDP2. The NPF4 would ensure that transport impacts/infrastructure consequences were assessed/aligned appropriately.
- South East Scotland was the powerhouse of Scotland's economy. The interim strategy set out the framework for this to continue and took an infrastructure first approach. The strategy anticipated 100,000 new houses for a population growth of 200,000.

Decision

To note the presentation.

(Reference – Regional Spatial Strategy for Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Robert Carr declared non-financial interests in the above item as a partner in the Anderson Strathern LLP which acted for, or had in the recent past acted for, each of the local authorities involved in the City Deal as well as many of the higher and further education bodies; as Chair of the Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee, as Chair of East Lothian Advice Consortium Ltd, the entity with which East Lothian Council contracts for the provision of advice services delivered by Haddington and Musselburgh Citizens Advice Bureaux; as a member of the East Lothian Partnership Connected Economy Group and as a member of the Fair work Convention.

4. Regional Growth Framework Update

The Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council provided an update was provided on the development of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Growth Framework.

The following main points were discussed:

- The report had some practical and some policy-based suggestions, around three main themes, which were Flourishing, Smart and Adaptable (Resilient). This was a new piece of work which partners in the region were engaging in.

- The importance of considering how to best move from the SESplan model to this new model was emphasised and the importance in particular of engaging with SEStran.
- It was noted that since the RGF had been first drafted, there had been a significant change to the baseline due to Covid-19. This change would affect the nature of the growth that would take place in recovery. Brexit would also change the nature of how the region operated, and the importance of these factors being incorporated into the future drafts was emphasised. It was also important that the public were clear in terms of what the two documents were and the remit of the Elected Member Oversight Group in relation to these documents.
- The Committee were advised that the NPF4 was likely to be published in November 2021. When confirmation was provided the Committee would be informed. The NPF4 should not delay work on the RSS and RGF and these documents could be used to set the agenda for NPF4.
- The Committee were advised that the Regional Enterprise Council had been engaged with as the RGF develops.
- It was recognised by the Committee the importance of the requirement for engagement to promote business and community understanding and participation in delivering results. The need to be aware of the pressures that had been upon officers in terms of response to the emergency was emphasised.
- It was suggested that it was important to start by defining what needed to be carried out, and how it would be carried out. The “how” should not be considered until the “what” was agreed (including what should be delivered locally (or sub-locally) and what could be delivered regionally). Industrial regeneration of the Forth was an example of something that could be delivered regionally.
- It was agreed that all relevant regional groups and forums would be mapped out discussed at the next meeting of the Committee. This would ensure that there was no duplication of effort and that members were fully informed.
- It was also agreed that a work programme for the group would be developed for the next meeting.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress to date on the development of the Regional Growth Framework (RGF).
- 2) To note and endorse the proposed vision and themes which would guide the focus of the RFG.

- 3) To note the proposed timescale to produce the RGF, including the timeframe for wider consultation.
- 4) To agree that an updated paper on the NPF4 would be brought to the Committee in February 2021.
- 5) To agree that a reading list would be compiled of relevant documents that would be helpful to the RGF.

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

5. Forward Meeting Programme/Next Steps

The dates for the Elected Member Oversight Committee until December 2021 were presented to Committee. Discussion took place about the importance of agreeing objectives for the Committee and to devise a work programme.

Decision

- 1) To note the meeting dates for the Elected Member Oversight Committee to December 2021.
- 2) To agree that all relevant regional groups and forums would be mapped out discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.
- 3) To agree that a work programme for the group would be developed for the next meeting of the Committee.