

Minutes

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

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 19 February 2021

Present:

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Adam McVey

East Lothian Council – Councillors Norman Hampshire and John McMillan

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

Midlothian Council – Councillors Russell Imrie and Peter Smaill

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Stuart Bell

West Lothian Council – Councillor Tom Conn

Higher/Further Education Consortium – David Brown and Simon Earp

Regional Enterprise Council – Garry Clark and Robert Carr

In attendance:

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

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

Ewan Kennedy, Service Manager, Transport Networks, City of Edinburgh Council

Iain McFarlane, City Plan Programme Director, 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

Adam Dunkerley, Opportunities Fife Partnership Manager, 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

Douglas Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place, East Lothian Council
Fiona McBrierty, Lead Officer, Local and Community Policy (Plans), West Lothian Council
Lawrence Wyper, Team Leader, Stakeholder and Partnerships Team, Scottish Enterprise
Veronica MacMillan, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Apologies

Councillors Cammy Day (City of Edinburgh Council, Cathy Muldoon (West Lothian Council) and Euan Robson (Scottish Borders Council)

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee of the 15 January 2021 as a correct record.

2. Revised Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Oversight Committee

Committee were advised that amendments had been made to the Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Oversight Group that were detailed in Section 1 (Membership) and Section 7 (Meeting Frequency) of the report.

Decision

- 1) To note the proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee (EMOC).
- 2) To note that the Terms of Reference would be submitted for approval to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee on the 5 March 2021.
- 3) To note that a recommendation would be made to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee on 5 March 2021 to appoint Councillor Altany Craik, Fife Council, as the Convener for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee for 2021.

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

3. Elected Member Oversight Committee Work Programme

At its inaugural meeting in January 2021, the Elected Member Oversight Committee recommended that the Programme Management Office developed an indicative Work Programme for discussion and approval at the second meeting of the Committee in February 2021 for discussion. The proposed work programme was presented for approval.

Committee discussed the programme and requested that representatives were invited from the Scottish Government to the Committee that considered feedback on the NPF4 Regional Update. It was also suggested that consideration was given to having themed meetings on topics such as fair work, poverty and health and invite relevant officials from Scottish Government and other organisations to those meetings.

Decision

- 1) To note the proposed work programme and key milestones for the Elected Member Oversight Committee.
- 2) To note that the timetable was indicative and subject to change, and could be altered to suit any changes to future meeting dates.
- 3) To note the priorities of other relevant regional groups and forums that were shown in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 4) To agree that officers would explore inviting representatives from the Scottish Government to the meeting of Committee that considered the NPF4 Regional Update, and to consider having themed Committee meetings on fair work, poverty, health etc and to invite the relevant officials from Scottish Government and other organisations to those meetings.

(Reference – report by the Programme Manager, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, 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 Regional Growth Framework was a document that articulated the long-term aspirational goals for Edinburgh and South East Scotland and guided the future of the economic and wider policy across stakeholders. It sought to set an ambitious 20-year vision for the region, up to 2040.

An update was provided on the development of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Growth Framework, and progress that has been made since the previous meeting of the Elected Member Oversight Committee on 15 January 2021.

The following main points were discussed:

- PL emphasised the importance of the narrative being right in terms of it being regional and strategic.
- The main impacts of Covid-19 on the region were:
 - The region had possibility been affected more than other areas because of the volume of jobs in retail, hospitality and tourism.
 - A spotlight had been shone on health and wider inequalities.
 - The economic divide had been exacerbated between those that could adapt to new ways of working and those who could not.
 - Put at risk (in the medium term) many existing business models, in transport, culture and hospitality in particular.
 - Shown the region to be a centre of global expertise in Public Health.
 - Shown the power and effectiveness of community action projects, right across the region.
 - Shared a determination to plan for a future that built upon our strengths and tackled challenges head on.
- The vision for the future was:
 - The vital importance of natural, cultural, built and community assets.
 - Determination to create a more equal economy and society.
 - Determination to address the climate challenge.
 - An international, brilliantly connected, outward looking city-region

- We were the cradle of the Enlightenment, the nation's capital, the driver of the Scottish Economy – we would adapt to lead the way once more in addressing the challenges of the 21st century.
- It was acknowledged that resource availability could be an issue but that a strategy was required to guide decision making. The RGF would be worked up into more detail following today's meeting.
- Members discussed the possibility of incorporating community wealth building into the region, and officers advised that this could be a part of rebuilding communities and maximising opportunities. The RGF could be a way for local authorities to sign up to the policy of community wealth building and then delivering it appropriately within their own area.
- Committee were advised that officers had not yet had a detailed conversation about the delivery capacity of the RGF by local authorities. New ways of working would be required to fit resourcing requirements and more details would be brought back to the next EMOC.
- Businesses would be required to change the way that they worked and the RGF strategy would have to be flexible to reflect this and to support businesses to make changes. The world of work had changed in terms of people travelling less to work in the office and more people working from home.
- Elected members advised that the development of Avon Gorge would help West Lothian economically and environmentally. It was agreed that officers would brief members on Forth Ports and Green Ports processes at Grangemouth, Forsyth and Leith.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress to date on the development of the Regional Growth Framework (RGF) and the proposed next steps.
- 2) To agree that officers would provide details of new ways of working between local authorities to fit resourcing requirements for the delivery of the RGF to the next EMOC.
- 3) To agree that officers would brief members of the EMOC on Forth Ports and Green Ports processes at Grangemouth, Forsyth and Leith.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council, 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.

5. Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Transport Appraisal Board bid into the Bus Partnership Fund

As part of its response to the climate emergency, the Scottish Government have been providing a long-term investment of over £500m through the Bus Partnership Fund to deliver targeted bus priority measures on local and trunk roads. This was intended to reduce the negative impacts of congestion on bus services and address the decline in bus patronage.

The Bus Partnership Fund would complement the powers in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, enabling local authorities to work in partnership with bus operators, to develop and deliver ambitious schemes that incorporated bus priority measures. The Fund would focus on the evidence of how bus services would be improved by addressing congestion, but the partnership approach was also expected to leverage other bus service improvements to help tackle the climate emergency, reduce private car use and increase bus patronage.

The closing date for Phase 1 submissions into the Bus Partnership Fund was 19 April 2021. It was proposed that the City Region Deal's Transport Appraisal Board coordinated a regional bid into the fund. A corridor approach to identify interventions across the South East Region would be taken. This regional bid could be submitted together with individual bids by Councils or other bids as appropriate. The proposed approach would be subject to approval by the relevant Councils in March and April 2021.

Decision

- 1) To note the timetable for bidding into Transport Scotland's £500 million Bus Partnership Fund.
- 2) To note that the Transport Appraisal Board had a remit to consider the benefits of collective regional based bids for external funding as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 3) To note that the City Region Deal Joint Committee would be asked to authorise the Transport Appraisal Board to prepare a collective South East of Scotland regional bid for submission to Transport Scotland for funding from its Bus Partnership Fund, subject to agreement by the six individual Councils.

- 4) To note that Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Councils had been invited to join the Transport Appraisal Board to participate in the regional bid.
- 5) To note that the applications must be from partnerships working towards Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) status, as defined by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.
- 6) To note that separate partnership bids into the fund may be submitted in addition to the regional bid, and that the partnerships would remain in close contact to ensure that bids complemented and did not duplicate one another.
- 7) To receive further reports on the progress of any measures and interventions together with any additional proposals to support the work of the Transport Appraisal Board.

(Reference – report by the Chair, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Transport Appraisal Board, 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.

6. National Planning Framework 4: Position Statement

One of the key requirements set out in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 was the preparation of the fourth National Planning Framework – National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). NPF4 would, when adopted, form part of the statutory development plan and would replace strategic development plans in the four city regions in Scotland.

Amongst other things, NPF4 would set housing requirements for city regions. It would also frame future infrastructure investment to support growth and set a planning framework for achieving net carbon zero Scotland. To ensure that partners in the south east of Scotland were able to fulfil their joint regional sustainable and inclusive growth ambitions, at the same time as protecting its most important natural environment and cultural assets, the forthcoming National Planning Framework must be an enabler which was aligned with the region's ambitions. Consequently, it was appropriate that the City Region Deal partnership comments on the Position Statement.

Decision

- 1) To note the publication by the Scottish Government of a Position Statement relating to the preparation of national Planning Framework 4.
- 2) To note that comments on the Position Statement were invited.
- 3) To agree the proposed response, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, as the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal's submission to the Scottish Government.

(Reference – report by the Head of Planning , Economic Development and Regeneration, West Lothian Council, 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.