

Minutes

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

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 16 April 2021

Present:

East Lothian Council – Councillors Norman Hampshire

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

Midlothian Council – Councillors Russell Imrie and Peter Smail

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Euan Robson

West Lothian Council – Councillors Tom Conn and Cathy Muldoon

Higher/Further Education Consortium – Simon Earp

Regional Enterprise Council – 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

David Baxter, 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

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

Ian Aikman, Chief Planning Officer, Scottish Borders Council

Lawrence Wyper, Team Leader, Stakeholder and Partnerships Team, Scottish
Enterprise

Veronica MacMillan, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Apologies

Councillor Stuart Bell (Scottish Borders Council), Councillor Cammy Day (City of
Edinburgh Council), Councillor John McMillan (East Lothian Council), Councillor

Adam McVey (City of Edinburgh Council), David Brown (Higher/Further Education Consortium), Angela Cox (Higher/Further Education Consortium), Robert Carr (Regional Enterprise Council) and Garry Clark (Regional Enterprise Council).

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee of the 19 February 2021 as a correct record, subject to changing the word 'Forsyth' to 'Rosyth' on page 5 of the minutes.

2. Regional Growth Framework - Update

An update was provided on the development of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Growth Framework and on progress that had been made since the previous meeting of the Elected Member Oversight Committee of 19 February 2021 and workshop session held on the 19 March 2021.

The following points were made during discussions:

- Appendix 1 of the report set out an updated Growth Framework Consultation Document and incorporated input from the workshop with Oversight Committee members held on the 19 March 2021.
- There were a number of remaining questions about the final presentation of the consultation paper and officers were seeking the views of the Oversight Committee on the following:
 - Did the vision, and in particular references to “growth” adequately and full reflect the shared ambitions for the region? Is the proposed vision realistic and ambitious enough?
 - The themes of Flourishing, Adaptable and Smart had been used to frame thinking as the regional approach was developed. Did these themes continue to provide a useful framework or should these now be taken out of the document? What, if anything else, should replace these?
 - Were there any important aspects of the region's economic profile that were not sufficiently captured?
 - Were there any important aspects of the region's future challenges and opportunities that were not sufficiently reflected?

- Did the future scenarios outlined in the document provide a useful basis to plan for the future? Were there any key risks or opportunities that weren't reflected?
- What were your views on the regional pipelines opportunities outlined?
- Members were advised that a final draft of the Regional Growth Framework Consultation document would be provided at the Oversight Committee workshop session on 21 May 2021, before being presented to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Joint Committee on 4 June 2021.
- Following consideration of consultation responses, the final Regional Growth Framework would require approval by the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Joint Committee and the constituent Councils.
- The following points were made in response to the questions put to the Oversight Committee detailed above:
 - Emphasis was placed on the need for the Framework to have a more local distinction and flavour. The socio-economic geography and history of the region had not yet been captured. The Framework needed to read like the area being described could not be mistaken for anywhere else and be produced by people that really understood the area.
 - Examples of economic potential should be peppered throughout the document.
 - The world had changed in the last year due to Covid-19 and the state of the region section of the Framework needed to reflect that.
 - In terms of the three themes, concerns were expressed about the use of the word 'Smart' because there were too many potential meanings. It was suggested that the word 'Resilient' was used instead.
 - Priority actions were the most important and identifying where the major regional development opportunities were.
 - It was questioned if entrepreneurship was mentioned enough in the document. The Skyscanner business example could be expanded.
 - Emphasis should be placed on the cultural and historical assets region and linking to assets out with the region would be beneficial. The textile industry and mining were given as examples.
 - It was suggested that the word 'hinterland' be removed from the document and that the word/theme 'Adaptable' could be replaced with 'Responsive'.

- The world of work would change markedly and for some, they may be working partly from home and partly from the office. The requirement for travel would be different and there may not be the same numbers of people travelling into Edinburgh for work that there was pre-Covid, and not the same am and pm transport peaks. It was important that the economic profile of the Framework captured these changes.
- To enable people to work from home offices were being built in gardens where planning permission was required. It was important to that there was a standardised approach to planning permission for home extensions to support home working.
- Investment was needed across the region on road networks to make them modern and up-to-date and to ensure that economic development wasn't inhibited.
- Breathing life into town centres was important in terms of developing infrastructure for visitors/tourists - there was a need to build up resilience of the places people wanted to visit.
- Aligning the skills landscape to future needs of the workforce was important. Collaboration between schools and universities and between colleges and universities would enable skills development.
- It was agreed that SE/RS would send a draft on the skills landscape to PL for consideration/incorporation into the document.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress to date of the Regional Growth Framework and the proposed next steps and to thank everyone for their input.
- 2) To agree that SE/RS would send a draft on the skills landscape to PL for consideration/incorporation into the document

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council and Senior Responsible Officer for the Regional Growth Framework, submitted.)