

# Minutes

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

### Microsoft Teams

**10.00am, Friday 5 March 2021**

#### Present:

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

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

**Fife Council** – Councillor David Ross

**Midlothian Council** – Councillor Russell Imrie

**Scottish Borders Council** – Councillor Shona Haslam

**Higher/Further Education Consortium** – Professor Peter Mathieson

**Regional Enterprise Council** – Claire Pattullo

#### In attendance:

Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council

Monica Patterson, Chief Executive, East Lothian Council

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive, Midlothian Council

Graham Hope, Chief Executive, West Lothian Council

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

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

Rob Dickson, Executive Director, Scottish Borders Council

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

Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Fife Council

Adam Dunkerley, Opportunities Fife Partnership Manager, Fife Council

David Baxter, Senior Programme Officer, City of Edinburgh Council

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

Lisa Howden, Trainee Accountant, City of Edinburgh Council

Ewan Kennedy, Policy and Planning Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

Veronica MacMillan, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Alice Mitchell, Economic Development and Regeneration Manager, West Lothian Council

Derek Oliver, Chief Officer, Place, Midlothian Council

Professor Bruce Whitelaw, Deputy Director Roslin Institute, Easter Bush, University of Edinburgh

David Brown, Head of Government and Public Sector, PwC

Jarmo Eskelinen, Executive Director, Data Driven Innovation Programme

John Scott, Head of Delivery, Data Driven Innovation Programme

Helen Wood, Head of University Space, University of Edinburgh

Mark Graham, Senior Economist, Data Driven Innovation Programme

## 1. Minutes

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### Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee 4 December 2020 as a correct record.

## 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 planned dates for future business for the City Region Deal Joint Committee.

(Reference – Work Programme, submitted.)

## 3. City Region Deal Progress Report

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The Joint Committee considered a report that advised of progress across the City Region Deal Programme.

A RAG (Red, Amber, Green) scale was assigned to programmes and projects by the Partnership Management Office (PMO), as well as scores for inclusive growth and partnership working. In this update, the overall status was assigned as 'Amber' and there were no actions for the Joint Committee.

Andy Nichol paid tribute to the sad passing of Henna Khatoon and advised that a collection had been organised in conjunction with Henna's family and the proceeds would go to MacMillan Cancer Support and the British Heart Foundation.

### Decision

1) To note the progress across the City Region Deal Programme.

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- 2) To note that a collection had been organised for the sad passing of Henna Khatoon, in conjunction with Henna's family, and the proceeds would go to MacMillan Cancer Support and the British Heart Foundation.

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

#### **4. Revision of Terms of Reference for Elected Member Oversight Committee**

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Details were provided of two revisions that were proposed to the Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Oversight Committee. The revisions were in Section 1 (Membership) and Section 7 (Meeting Frequency).

The first amendment to Section 1 (Membership) reflected the desire for flexibility in membership and the fact that the Regional Enterprise Council and Higher/Further Education were considered equal partners in developing the Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Growth Framework. It allowed for greater flexibility in the future.

#### **Decision**

- 1) To adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Oversight Committee.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Altany Craik, Fife Council, as the Convener of the Elected Member Oversight Committee.

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

#### **5. Easter Bush Business Case**

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Approval was sought to secure funding for, and to enact, the Easter Bush project as set out in the Easter Bush Final Business Case. Preparation of the Business case had been led by the University of Edinburgh and Midlothian Council – on behalf of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal consortium partners – in accordance with the HM Treasury 5 Case model guidance.

The City Region Deal had a long history of excellence and leadership in informatics and data science that included one of the largest computing schools in Europe (the University of Edinburgh's School of Informatics); the UK's principal super-computing facility (Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre) and the largest concentration of internationally-significant and world-leading informatics research in the UK.

As with the DDI programme as a whole, the Easter Bush Agri-Tech Campus was designed around five key areas of intervention (or 'TRADE' themes):

- **Talent:** Develop a flow of talent in data driven entrepreneurship and the application of Agri-tech
- **Research:** Develop, in conjunction with industry, a world-leading research capability in data science
- **Adoption:** Undertake a range of industry engagements focussed on building collaborative partnerships to enable new research and innovation activity
- **Data:** Support initiatives, such as the Agri-EPI Centre, to create data assets to help businesses with IoT, technology, robotics and novel systems of production
- **Entrepreneurship:** Generate a pipeline of new high-growth start-ups and scale-ups and support equity investment.

By demonstrably improving innovation and incrementally enhancing the City Region DDI ecosystem the Easter Bush Agri-Tech Campus would, over the next 15 years, deliver:

- **Talent:** By directly engaging with around 141,000 people, including around 25,000 that would be undertaking credit bearing CPDs and other courses, in the application of data to develop genetics and health innovations in agriculture and aquaculture
- **Research:** through hosting world-leading applied researchers and projects worth an additional £116 million over the lifetime of the DDI Programme
- **Adoption:** increasing new company engagements (100) to enhance data adoption in agriculture
- **Data:** supporting new initiatives to curate, analyse and translate huge datasets – such as the new centres of Data Driven Breeding and Aquaculture Genetics and Health – to encourage and enable the creation of Agri-Tech Assets
- **Entrepreneurship:** through the establishment of an additional 30 new high-growth firms and support to around 150 graduates in setting up or joining micro Agri-Tech companies.

Both Midlothian Council and the University of Edinburgh recognised that adequate road access to the site had to be provided if constraints on the further development of Easter Bush were to be avoided.

The proposed roads infrastructure changes would be a key enabler of the future development of the Easter Bush Campus that comprised of the A701 Relief road, A702 Link Road, Bush Loan Junction and Straiton junction.

## Decision

To approve the Easter Bush final business case and implementation of the associated Agri-Tech activities and transport improvements.

(Reference – report by the Senior Responsible Officer, Data Driven Innovation Delivery Board and Senior Responsible Officer, Transport Appraisal Board, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, submitted.)

## **6. Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme – ESESCR Deal – Full Business Case for Tranche 2**

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The Joint Committee considered a report that sought approval for the second tranche of investment (years 4-6) of the Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme. The Fife i3 Programme was a ten-year investment programme in innovation, business property and employment land in Fife.

The Fife i3 Programme was being delivered a part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal's innovation theme. The Programme would deliver a sustained investment programme in modern business premises to support the delivery of Inclusive Growth and Innovation in Fife. It would increase the supply of serviced employment land and new industrial, office and business space in Fife.

### **Decision**

- 1) To approve the Full Business Case (FBC) included as Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2) To note that the Full Business Case (FBC) included as Appendix 1 to the report had been approved by Fife Council's Policy and Coordination Committee on 23 November 2020 and confirmed Fife Council's commitment of the resource required for delivery.
- 3) To note that the report followed the Full Business Case for the Fife i3 Programme which was approved by the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee on 1 March 2019.
- 4) To note that a further Full Business Case for the third tranche (years 7-10) of investment would be prepared in 2023/24.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Enterprise and Environment, Fife Council, submitted).

## **7. ESESCR Deal Transport Appraisal Board bid into the Bus Partnership Fund**

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As part of its response to the climate emergency, the Scottish Government had 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, that would enable 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 to the report.
- 3) 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 do 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 Dr Grace Vickers, Chair, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Transport Appraisal Board, submitted).