

Minutes

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

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 21 May 2021

Present:

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 – Robert Carr and Garry Clark

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

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

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

Phil Cragg, Consultant, Deloitte

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

Adam Dunkerley, Opportunities Partnership Manager, Fife Council

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

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place, Midlothian Council

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

Ian Aikman, Chief Planning Officer, Scottish Borders Council

Veronica MacMillan, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Apologies

Councillor Cammy Day (City of Edinburgh Council), Councillor Cathy Muldoon (West Lothian Council), Councillor Ewan Robson (Scottish Borders Council), Councillor Peter Smaill (Midlothian Council) and Nile Istephan (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 16 April 2021 as a correct record.

2. Response to Scottish Government Feedback on Indicative Regional Spatial Strategies

In September 2020, the Joint Committee agreed to submit the Interim Regional Spatial Strategy for South East Scotland to Scottish Government as part of its ongoing work preparing the National Planning Framework 4. National Planning Framework 4 would become part of the development plan and be a determining part of the planning process. It would also incorporate Scottish Planning Policy. A draft of NPF4 is due to be published by the Scottish Government in September 2021.

Regional Spatial Strategies provide a spatial representation of the key strategic land use issues to be addressed across the region and to input to the preparation of the National Planning Framework 4. The iRSS had been developed by the six SE Scotland Local Authorities with the process including engagement with Key Agencies. The work was progressed through the SESplan officer structures.

The Government had provided feedback on iRSS documents submitted and were seeking any further comments from the various regional partnerships and/or amendments to the iRSS before the end of April 2021. The Scottish Government had been notified of the recommendation of this report and would be contacted again with the decision of the Committee.

The following points were made during discussions:

- A spatial strategy was trying to be established at a time when lots of things were changing. As a partnership it was important to be working dynamically.
- The National Planning Framework 4 was the key document that recognised the funding and where it should go. The land allocations and investment should be linked.

- There was a requirement to understand how this work was going to be delivered. Great strategies had been produced but there had always been a disconnect with funding.
- Expenditure had started to be exercised under the Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) but it was recognised that this placed a lot of risk on Councils.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree that no further amendment to the indicative Regional Spatial Strategy was made at this stage,
- 3) To direct the Chair of the SESplan Board to inform the Scottish Government of its position.

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

3. Regional Prosperity Framework – Consultation Draft

The consultation draft of the Regional Prosperity Framework was presented to Committee for review.

The decision to prepare a ‘Regional Growth Framework’ was taken in September 2019, prior to COVID-19 and the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union. Ambitions and action on climate change had also intensified and come more to the fore, with COP26 also due to take place later this year. In a very short period of time there had been significant change in the world that has impacted and would continue to impact our regional economy and our way of life in an unprecedented way.

Our response to these factors was on-going, and the timeline for recovery and nature of renewal was still uncertain. Developing a Regional Framework in this context was challenging. The direction of all strategic policy, strategy and associated interventions was adapting to, and was rapidly being shaped by, these wider circumstances. Our regional ambitions now needed to address pre-existing issues as well as current and future challenges and opportunities. We need to be flexible and adaptable in how we collaborate and plan for the future, and our circumstances may rapidly change again.

The following points were made during discussions:

- PL expressed his gratitude to everyone that had worked on the Regional Prosperity Framework.
- Phil Cragg, a consultant from Deloitte had been brought on board due to available funding and would help with the engagement and consultation process and writing up of the report.

- The Regional Growth Framework was now the Regional Prosperity Framework which was more inclusive and was meant to imply prosperity for everyone.
- The three thematic areas – smart, adaptable and flourishing was replaced with innovative, resilient and just.
- The RPF was intended to be a resource document for the Scottish Government so that they could work with officers to deliver the RPF. It was agreed that the Convener would write to the Cabinet Secretary to seek an early conversation with the Scottish Government, either at civil servant or ministerial level about working collaboratively to deliver the RPF.
- The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee would consider the draft RPF on 4 June 2021 and the draft would then go out for consultation for 6 weeks. Targeted events would take place with the Chamber of Commerce, Third Sector, Federation of Small Businesses etc.
- In terms of engaging with people in communities, it was important that the draft RPF was as simple and understandable as possible.
- It was suggested that reference to colleges within the region could be strengthened and their role in skills development within the RPF.
- In terms of demographic-dependent roles, there was evidence that people over the age of 65 were volunteering and returning to work in their original profession. This resource could be harnessed.
- A debate took place on the use of the word ‘growth’ and ‘prosperity’ and the pros and cons of the use of these words. Growth could be seen by some as being all consuming and prosperity could be viewed as being income-driven. It was suggested that growth sounded consumptive and flourishing sounded much more positive.
- PL advised that wellbeing economics was prevalent currently. The skills agenda was very important and that this would be strengthened in the document.
- It was recognised that the labour market had changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and that there was no longer a fixed model of people working 9-5. The world of work had been based on a flow of people travelling in and out of Edinburgh and it was important to look at whether this would be a paradigm shift.
- It was agreed that all stakeholders, including community councils would be engaged with and thought would be given to how to engage with people that were harder to reach and that did not use digital platforms. It was suggested

that consideration should be given to using a citizen's assembly as a form of engagement.

Decision

- 1) To note and review the latest version of the Consultation Draft 'Regional Prosperity Framework' (previously the 'Regional Growth Framework') detailed at Annex 1 of the report.
- 2) To agree the amendments to the document discussed by the Elected Member Oversight Committee.
- 3) To agree the approach to awareness raising; engagement, consultation and duration.
- 4) To note and consider the feedback of the Elected Member Oversight Committee in terms of renaming the document 'Regional Prosperity Framework'.
- 5) To note and consider the feedback of the Elected Member Oversight Committee in terms of the options for theme names 'Innovative, Resilient and Just' (previously 'Smart, Adaptable and Flourishing').
- 6) To note the remaining governance milestones and timeline to decision set out in the report.
- 7) To agree that the Convener would write to the Cabinet Secretary to seek an early conversation with the Scottish Government, either at civil servant or ministerial level about working collaboratively to deliver the RPF.

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