

Minutes

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

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 16 July 2021

Present:

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

Midlothian Council – Councillor Russell Imrie

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Euan Robson

West Lothian Council – Councillors Tom Conn and Cathy Muldoon

Higher/Further Education Consortium – Simon Earp

Regional Enterprise Council – 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

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

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

Phil Cragg, Consultant, Deloitte

Douglas Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place, East Lothian Council

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

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

Ian Aikman, Chief Planning Officer, Scottish Borders Council

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Representing South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE):

Professor Russell Griggs (Chair), Councillor Mark Rowley (Scottish Borders Council), Alan Manthorpe (SOSE), Bryan McGrath (SOSE), Douglas Scott (Scottish Borders Council) and Steve Rogers (Dumfries and Galloway Council).

Apologies

Councillor Adam McVey and Councillor Cammy Day (City of Edinburgh Council), Councillors Norman Hampshire and John McMillan (East Lothian Council), Councillor Councillor Peter Smaill (Midlothian Council), Councillor Stuart Bell (Scottish Borders Council), David Brown and Angela Cox (Higher/Further Education Consortium), Garry Clark and Nile Istephan (Regional Enterprise Council).

3 Minute

M) Imrie

2) Robson

4.1, 4.2, 4.3

PL

Presentation on Regional Economic Strategy – Bryan McGrath

Ask David for a copy

Russel Griggs – in producing RES, we've done lots of pre-consultation. It now sounds like us.

Mark Rowley –

Robert Carr – compliment members.

Scott Douglas – early days.

Robert Carr – feedback is 3 and 2 (3 days in, 2 at home)

4.4

Phil Cragg

Consultation – Word doc (ask David)

Date of next meeting – 30 July 2021

Too soon? Andy will confirm.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee of the 21 May 2021 as a correct record.

2. Regional Prosperity Framework and South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy – Overview

Paul Lawrence gave a short introduction on the emerging Regional Prosperity Framework and its links with the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, before handing over to South of Scotland Enterprise to give a detailed presentation on the Regional Economic Strategy.

The South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP) was established in summer 2020 to drive forward the Regional Economic Strategy for the south of Scotland. It encompassed both Scottish Borders Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council and included private sector, higher and further education, third sector, community representation, social enterprise, RSLs, and with links into national agencies. The key ambition has been to put in place as quickly as possible a Regional Economic Strategy for the south of Scotland, which aimed to shape the future economic vision, develop a shared view on key issues and set a sense of ambition for the region. Details were provided on the 6 key themes of the strategy to create a greener, fairer and flourishing South of Scotland:

- Skilled and ambitious people
- Innovative and enterprising
- Rewarding and fair work
- Cultural and creative excellence
- Green and sustainable economy
- Thriving and distinct communities

The next steps were outlined: the draft strategy was out for consultation until mid-August and this was expected to receive a lot of responses. A delivery plan was being developed and workshops were being held to shape this.

It was noted that the development of the RES had been a hugely collaborative piece of work and there had been a significant amount of pre-consultation prior to producing it, with almost 1,000 people engaging in the process.

Decision

To note the update.

3. Synergies between the two emerging strategies - Discussion

Members were asked to discuss synergies between the two emerging strategies and specifically consider commonality, challenges, opportunities and where parts of the RPF could be strengthened.

The following points were made during discussions:

- Some concern with the word growth – can cause tension as people associate the term with unrestricted growth (urban sprawl etc), but it was acknowledged that the term may mean different things in different places. It was important that growth was sustainable, and it had to be considered in non-monetary terms e.g. quality of life, levels of happiness, infrastructure quality.

- Need to be cautious about growth and ensure it doesn't destroy the assets people want to come and see. Need to consider things like peripheral car parks and buses into towns and villages.
- Concern at outset that there would be contradictions between the framework and the plan but was good to see how well they sat together.
- There was a role for colleges in training up the next generation of people who would deliver the plan, in terms of energy networks and infrastructure, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality.
- There was a recognition that cities may not return to pre-Covid practices, in terms of office work and commuter travel. Rural communities were getting back to normal quicker.

Decision

To note the discussion and the feedback provided.

3. Consultation Latest

An overview of the consultation was provided. The first of two scheduled engagement sessions was held on Monday 12 July. The purpose was to replicate a town hall session online. About 20 people attended, which was lower than hoped (the platform allowed up to 1,000 people to join). Key findings were that the majority of attendees hadn't read the framework; members were asked to consider some key statements in relation to the framework, and whether those statements married with their ambitions for the region. One of the main concerns discussed was whether the region would have the skills and people to deliver the programme. Further sessions were also scheduled.

25 formal responses to the consultation had been received to date.

The timing of both consultations was helpful in providing both regions with the opportunity to provide feedback and to ensure that this was built into respecting strategies.

- RPF consultation – running from 14 June to 26 July.
- SOSE consultation – running from Monday 5 July until Monday 16 August.

They were both also seeking to produce a finalised version by September 2021.

Decision

To note the update.