



Regional Prosperity Framework

Elected Member Update: August 2021

Key Changes and Consultation Update

How many people have been engaged and what are they telling us for the RPF?

Numbers engaged with?

- There were 52 people who submitted a formal consultation response on the Hub
 - Majority of these were CEC (23), followed by Midlothian (13), Borders (10), East Lothian (3), then Fife & West Lothian (2 each) + 7 (others)*
- There were 47 people who participated in the two Remesh consultations
 - Again these are represented across all the LA boundaries
- There have been c.20 additional responses received in email format to the CRD mailbox from national and local agencies

What are they telling us?

- The responses in the Hub and through the Remesh portal largely tell us that priorities focus on three critical areas that must be strengthened:
- **Environmental:** the majority of responses included a green agenda that made clear economic policies must not detract from green progress
- **Travel:** clearly a major issue for citizens, both rural and urban residents had major challenges with transport
- **Societal and Place:** inequalities, participation and a sense of community is of paramount importance for what the region delivers

Key Points to note from the feedback

What's the general feeling for the ambition, tone and structure of the RPF?

Ambition and Tone

- From the 52 hub responses, there were a large number of **positive** responses:
 - *"We welcome these proposals"*
 - *"This could be an excellent approach but it needs firm stewardship"*
 - *"This is good"*
- There were also a number of **critical** responses:
 - *"Not realistic at all but a typical socialist vision that you will fail to implement properly"*
 - *"What proposal? This is just meaningless words and phrases that someone thinks will look good"*
 - *"They are just words that no doubt cost a fortune... to concoct"*



The Vision Statement

How this has been updated as a result of the consultation feedback



Key issues

Transport, Place and Environmental issues in more detail

Travel key concerns from consultation:

- Active travel
- Railway extension/reopening
- Cost of transport
- Alignment with network and new towns
- Focus to sustainable network
- Keeping up to date with changing of working patterns etc.
- Connectivity
- Rural transport challenges
- Edinburgh bypass
- Future-proofing travel network
- Bus network
- Fixing existing challenges (e.g. potholes and Sherrifhall)
- Ferry network (links to Scandinavia)
- Environmental concerns with travel
- Parking and use of space

Environmental key concerns from consultation:

- Access to nature/space
- Legislation to protect nature while building
- Renewable energy generation and policy
- Emerging green opportunities aligned to skills
- Sustainable agriculture
- Carbon capture
- Infrastructure to deliver this (chargers, hydrogen, roads etc.)
- Wilding
- Green finance opportunities
- Public transport
- Climate emergency (vision)
- Future climate challenges and how these will be delivered (e.g. rising tides)

Societal and Place key concerns from consultation:

- Requirement for real engagement in design and delivery of the future
- Quality of life & community wealth building
- Changing demographics and the challenges this brings
- Voluntary and third sectors and their influence in local areas
- Focus on maintaining community that has been “re-engaged” through Covid
- Unequal spread of wealth across the region and a need to think differently
- Natural capital being truly valued by the region
- Rethink priorities as a result of the new ways of working
- A greater focus on people’s “experience” of regions, rather than single interactions
- Requirement for a “pull” factor/story to entice younger people to the region
- A joined-up approach with industry, transport and the community
- Community-driven activities (and funding)

Changes from Consultation

What changes have been made directly from the consultation process

Theme	Responses	Suggested changes
Specifics	the wording is very general, these are global needs, they don't reference specific regional issues	See pages at the end on the local issues captured
	International ambition, building on key assets like culture and education and city centre. Quality of life, greater connectivity across sectors of economy not just geographically	P16 (help develop an internationally recognised, well-connected and outward looking city-region).
Workforce & economy	More focus on eliminating poverty, helping enterprise flourish through developing a thriving business environment and fair work	P17 (Sustainable, accessible and integrated transport as an enabler to universal access for opportunities and reduce inequalities.)
Transport	Transport integration, better travel and links, More involvement of the citizens in decision making. Councils should make common sense decisions based on fact not produce committee reports based on fiction	See below for transport. See bottom cell on democratic engagement
	Ambition to create efficient cheap integrated transport system	P19 (- A single point of information and ticketing which is affordable and integrated for public transport across the region.)
	Commitment +detailed + timetabled schedule for early delivery/ provision of relevant ratio of the thirty thousand EV points said to be needed by 2030 in Scotland. Without adequate EV for buses, coaches (regular and tourist) and lorries trade will fail	P20 (Sustainable) – add a point referencing the EV network within the supply of energy?
Environment	specifics on the climate agenda - how are we going to get there?	Exec summary (that our environment and our citizens have the support they need)
	The ability to create law to direct developers to build zero carbon capable infrastructure eg micro grids, zero carbon building standards etc	P14 – captured well but include (matching service and infrastructure with appropriate legislation)
	Green agenda and the extent of achieving zero carbon and definition to include embedded carbon context	
Citizens	Methods & mechanisms for grass-roots engagement!	Three elements at play here:
	Articulation of what prosperity means in the context of the region and, building on previous responses, what prosperity for all mean - focusing on widening participation education, skills, jobs etc.. Citizens will be at the centre.	1) The need to place citizens at the heart of everything that gets done, I'd like to put something in here on s.9 (p29) of the democratic process for engaging on the tactical initiatives.
	It needs a better understanding of the needs of people living with long term health conditions/disabilities and access to employment/learning and housing. Also need to think about our existing built environment and how this is used rather than new.	2) There is a larger point here around access to information & feeding this into a loop of how decisions are taken. Something along the lines of "we will continue to refine our approach to delivery based on the evidence and advice from our citizens"
Participatory budget and community wealth building, Get away from economic trickle down. As community we need more amenities and facilities, we don't need more in industrial estates , we need more things for teenagers to do in the communities so stopping anti social behaviour.	3) The final point is a more strategic one around how democracy can be pushed to the most local level to enable community councils to determine local agendas.	

Process for changes to the framework

How have the team listened to and actioned the feedback from citizens and organisations in relation to the RPF?

