

Minutes

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

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 20 August 2021

Present:

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

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Cammy Day and Adam McVey

Midlothian Council – Councillor Russell Imrie and Peter Smaill

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Stuart Bell and Euan Robson

East Lothian Council – Councillor Norman Hampshire and John McMillan

West Lothian Council – Councillors Tom Conn

Higher/Further Education Consortium – Angela Cox, David Brown Simon Earp

Regional Enterprise Council – Robert Carr, Garry Clark and 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

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

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

Jenni Craig, Service Director – Customer & Communities, Scottish Borders Council

John Hayward, Planning and Development Standards Manager, Scottish Borders Council

Phil Cragg, Consultant, Deloitte

Douglas Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place, East Lothian Council

Andrew Stewart, Project Manager, East Lothian Council

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

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

Craig McCorriston, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration,

West Lothian Council

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Apologies

Councillor Cathy Muldoon (West Lothian 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 July 2021 as a correct record.

2. Consultation Overview – Regional Prosperity Framework Update and Consultation Key Themes and Amendments

Phil Cragg updated the committee on the Regional Prosperity Framework consultation. 52 formal responses had been received on the Hub and a further c. 20 additional responses received in email format to the CRD mailbox. The responses largely focused on the issues of Environmental, Travel and Societal and Place. Committee was provided with a detailed list of the specific key concerns raised in relation these themes. Although there were a number of critical responses, it was highlighted that there had also been a number of very positive responses. A number of changes had been made following consultation feedback, in particular the Vision Statement, which had been redrafted. A process had been developed by the team for making changes to the framework following feedback received in the consultation.

During the discussion, the following points were raised:

- Infrastructure concerns – National Rail, roads, etc may struggle to cope with this level growth.
- The low number of consultation responses was disappointing, but it was noted that all councils had debated and discussed the framework, and in addition to the consultation, a number of events had been run by partners, so it was important to recognise the extent of discussion elsewhere.
- It was important to continue to engage with equalities and minority groups, as these have historically been missed in previous consultations.

Decision

To note the update.

Declaration of Interests

Robert Carr declared non-financial interests in the above item as a partner in the Anderson Strathern LLP which acted for, or had in the recent past acted for, each of the local authorities involved in the City Deal as well as many of the higher and further education bodies; as Chair of the Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee,

as Chair of East Lothian Advice Consortium Ltd, the entity with which East Lothian Council contracts for the provision of advice services delivered by Haddington and Musselburgh Citizens Advice Bureaux; as a member of the East Lothian Partnership Connected Economy Group and as a member of the Fair work Convention.

3. Final Draft version of Regional Prosperity Framework

Paul Lawrence outlined the key themes and amendments in the Final Draft of the Regional Prosperity Framework, which was shared with members. The Executive Summary outlined 7 Major Regional Opportunities, as follows:

1. A Data-driven Region
2. Sustainable tourism and cultural distinction
3. The Forth: a green industrial and regeneration exemplar
4. Healthcare and Well-being focus for all
5. Maximising the role of ‘anchor institutions’
6. Support for starting and building a business
7. New approaches to sustainable development

It was hoped that each of these would become a delivery programme and that cross cutting themes would be embedded in each. It was, however, highlighted that there were ten “big moves” outlined in the substantive document, so there was some work for officers to bring these in line with each other.

Decision

To note the update.

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4. Member Feedback

Members were given the opportunity to share their own feedback on the draft. The following points were raised in the discussion:

- The document was in line with aims of the City Region Deal.
- Infrastructure was a key issue and concern. Huge investment would be required to meet the ambition outlined in the document.
- Concern that the document failed to discuss entrepreneurship – the section on SMEs could be strengthened, particularly in terms of how to support new business startups.

- No mention of high-speed rail in the document (noting the campaign for Glasgow and Edinburgh to connect).
- Good early work on the document - emphasis on poverty was welcomed.
- Regional Enterprise Council had for a number of years discussed 4 main themes of Prosperity and Wealth Creation. Climate and Biodiversity, Participation and Engagement, and Sharing Benefits in a Fair and Just Way. The most recent iterations addressed these themes.
- The issue of poverty was not a political issue – it was about not only personal cost, but cost on the public purse.

Decision

To note the feedback from members and ask officers to reflect in the final version.

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