

# Minutes

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

### **Microsoft Teams**

**10.00am, Friday 11 March 2022**

#### **Present:**

**Midlothian Council** – Councillor Russell Imrie (In the Chair)

**Fife Council** – Councillor Altany Craik

**City of Edinburgh Council** – Councillor Cammy Day

**Scottish Borders Council** – Councillor Stuart Bell and Euan Robson

**East Lothian Council** – Councillors Norman Hampshire and John McMillan

**Higher/Further Education Consortium** – David Brown 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

Jenni Craig, Director – Resilient Communities, Scottish Borders Council

Douglas Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place, East Lothian Council

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

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director of Place, Midlothian Council

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

Ritchie Somerville, Head of Strategy Data Driven Innovation Programme, University of Edinburgh

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

## **Apologies**

Councillor John Beare (Fife Council), Councillor Adam McVey (City of Edinburgh Council), Angela Cox (Higher/Further Education Consortium)

## **1. Minutes**

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### **Decision**

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee of 19 November 2021 as a correct record.

## **2. National Planning Framework (NPF4)**

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Craig McCorriston updated the committee on the Consultation on Draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), and shared the proposed consultation response, due to be submitted by 31 March 2022. NPF4 would replace strategic development plans as an element of the development plan for all parts of Scotland. As well as replacing strategic development plan, NPF4 would replaced Scottish Planning Policy and, in doing so, introduce a proposed suite of 33 new and revised national planning policies.

The committee discussed the timetable following submission. The Scottish Government intended to have NPF4 adopted before the summer recess. During discussion, members highlighted the challenge of implementing 20 minute neighbourhoods (Policy 7) in some rural areas. Similarly, Policy 10 prioritised areas where cars were not used, potentially causing issues for areas where cars were necessary. It was noted that community councils in rural Fife had raised the same point about the ability to pursue 20 minute neighbourhoods. Members also raised the point that some rural areas did not have access for bus travel.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the publication for consultation by the Scottish Government of a proposed National Planning Framework 4/
- 2) To note that when approved NPF4 would replace the SESplan Strategic Development Plan, National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy.
- 3) To note that comments on the proposed NPF4 were invited.
- 4) To note the committee's comments on the proposed response to the consultation.
- 5) To note that the proposed response remained subject to on-going consultation with City Region Deal partners.
- 6) To note that the draft response was reported to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee on 4 March and that joint

committee delegated approval of the final response to the Elected Member Oversight Committee noting that committee may wish to further delegate completion and submission of the response to an officer in one of the constituent councils.

- 7) To agree that the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration at West Lothian Council be delegated to finalise the response and submit it to the Scottish Government by the deadline subject to any substantive changes to the version before committee being advised to committee members prior to submission.

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

### **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. Regional Prosperity Framework**

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Paul Lawrence gave a short verbal update on Implementation Planning and the Nine Big Moves. Since the RPF was approved, there have been discussion across the region, looking at how to take the high level strategies and develop them into investable propositions under each of the nine key headings. This work had been complemented by the publication of the Levelling Up white paper from the UK Government and the National Strategy for Economic Transformation from the Scottish Government. Work was underway to ensure alignment between the RPF and these two documents.

Douglas Proudfoot updated committee on Big Move 4 – Regenerating the Forth, as an example implementation plan. Workshops had taken place in January and February and there had been good engagement with key agencies across the public and private sector. The workshops captured key opportunities, known challenges and collective ambitions for the workstream. There was also work to capture links to the other workstreams, particularly skills and tourism. These discussions formed the basis of a draft implementation plan, which included around 12 strategic actions. Officers were now completing wash-up work to ensure actions were fully captured.

### **Decision**

To note the update.

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## **4. Next Meeting**

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### **Decision**

To note that the date of the next meeting was still to be confirmed, but would potentially take place on Friday 10 June.