

Minutes

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

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 5 August 2022

Present:

Midlothian Council – Councillor Russell Imrie (In the Chair)

East Lothian Council – Councillor John McMillan

Scottish Borders Council – Councillors Euan Robson and Elaine Thornton-Nicol

West Lothian Council – Councillors Tom Conn and Kirsteen Sullivan

Higher/Further Education Consortium – Angela Cox, 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

Ian Aikman, Chief Planning Officer, Scottish Borders Council

Douglas Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place, East Lothian 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 Kelly Parry (Midlothian Council), Councillor Cammy Day (City of Edinburgh Council), Councillor Norman Hampshire (East Lothian Council), Councillor Altany Craik (Fife Council), Nile Istephan (Regional Enterprise Council).

5.1

Circulate poll? Work around ministerial attendance.

Possibly in person

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee of 11 March 2022 as a correct record.

2. Declarations of Interest

Robert Carr declared non-financial interests in the items 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 Delivery Framework

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Prosperity: Framework for Delivery was submitted to the Oversight Committee and Paul Lawrence introduced the paper and thanked all the officers for their hard work on the document. The document built on the important work that went into setting the strategic direction for the Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) by adding the next level of detail, forming an indicative framework for delivery. The document recognised the considerable changes that had occurred at a national, local and regional level since the publication of the RPF in summer 2021, including the worsening of the cost of living crisis, the conflict in Ukraine, and the removal of remaining restrictions imposed for responding to the Covid Pandemic. There had also been the publication of two key strategies, namely Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation and the UK Government Levelling Up White Paper, with which it would be important to align with the delivery of the RPF.

The document set out 8 Delivery Programmes, as follows:

1. Regenerating our Waterfront and Coastal sites
2. Upskilling and reskilling our workforce

3. Outstanding and inclusive innovation ecosystems
4. City, town centre and rural recovery
5. Sustainable transport and infrastructure
6. Digital connectivity and data gathering and deployment
7. Visitor economy
8. Maximising the role of our anchor institutions

Members were asked to consider whether the delivery framework represented the right strategic approach for the region. The document was still a work in progress, so members were invited to identify any areas which still required work.

A key area for consideration would be how to resource the delivery set out in the document.

Decision

- 1) To convey the committee's thanks to the officers who worked on the delivery framework for their hard work.
- 2) To agree to take the delivery framework forward but delay consideration to the December meeting, which should include an update on progress at Scottish Government level.

4. UK Shared Prosperity Funding

Paul Lawrence gave a short verbal update on regional priorities. The UK Government, through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, had taken the approach of three-year allocations to local authorities, predominantly revenue funding. Different amounts had been allocated to different local authorities based on the usual criteria. Each local authority had been submitting delivery plans to the UK Government. The intention was to enable some regional collaboration as funds became available, and this had been outlined in the individual submissions.

Members highlighted the challenges relating to the labour market, using the funds effectively, given that it was replacement funding for EU structural funds, and the need to spend in-year. It was expected that most of the benefit would be seen in year 3 of the funding.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To propose that representatives from the UK and Scottish Governments be invited to join future meetings to provide them with a better understanding of the City Region and the Regional Prosperity Framework.
- 3) To request a spreadsheet identifying what applications had been made to the Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds, including which projects and how they were associated with the Big Moves.

4. Next Meeting

Decision

To note that the date of the next meeting was still to be confirmed – the date would be arranged in line with UK/Scottish Government availability.