

Minutes

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

Hybrid Meeting - Dean of Guild Court Room / Microsoft Teams

10.30am, Friday 18 November 2022

Present:

Midlothian Council – Councillors Russell Imrie (In the Chair) and Kelly Parry

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillors Cammy Day and Adam McVey

East Lothian Council – Councillor Norman Hampshire

Fife Council – Councillors Altany Craik and David Alexander

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nicol

West Lothian Council – Councillors Tom Conn and Kirsteen Sullivan

Higher/Further Education Consortium – David Brown and Ritchie Somerville
(substituting for Jane Grant)

Regional Enterprise Council – Robert Carr and Shona Pettigrew (substituting for
Simon Earp)

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

Daniel Stevens, City Region Deal PMO, City of Edinburgh Council

Lisa Howden, Accountant, City of Edinburgh Council

Jenni Craig, Director – Resilient Communities, Scottish Borders Council

Douglas Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place, East Lothian Council

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place, Midlothian Council
Craig McCorrison, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration,
West Lothian Council
Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Fife Council
David Robertson, Chief Financial Officer, Scottish Borders Council
Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Lord Offord, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Scotland Office
Miriam Simpson, Scotland Office
Lizzie Davies, Scotland Office
Ivan McKee, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise
Liz McAreavey, Chief Executive, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Melissa Smith, Scottish Government
Jacqueline Marsland, Scottish Government
Kate Bryson, Scottish Government
Kimberley Daly, Scottish Government
Laurence Rockey, Scotland Office

Apologies

Councillor Euan Robson (Scottish Borders Council), Councillor John McMillan (East Lothian Council), Councillor Altany Craik (Fife Council), Nile Istephan (Regional Enterprise Council) and Simon Earp (Regional Enterprise Council).

1. 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.

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee of 5 August 2022 as a correct record.

3. What's next for Scotland's most productive and successful economy?

Paul Lawrence, Senior Responsible Officer, Regional Prosperity Framework gave a presentation on progress and outcomes of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Edinburgh and South East of Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee – 18 November 2022

City Region Deal and the Regional Prosperity Framework, detailing the key strategic moves: Green Regeneration of the Forth Estuary; embedding and extending the impact of Data-Driven Innovation investment in the regional and national economy; the renewal of the Cultural offer and Visitor Economy; and soft and hard infrastructure – transport and skills for the future. The Oversight Committee and representatives from the UK and Scottish Governments were asked to continue to work in tripartite (UKG/SG/ESES) partnership and to agree for official to work together to conclude a proposition before Ministers by mid-February 2023.

During discussion, the following points were made:

- There was a need to ensure maximum benefit for everybody on the regeneration of extended Forth Estuary, both inner and outer.
- There were plans in place by people in the private sector on this, particularly in Fife. Officers would arrange a session on this work, involving the Scottish Funding Council and EDF Energy.
- The IRES Board was working with Skills Development Scotland on regional prosperity skills.
- In addition to the need to invest in skills, it was important to take into account labour shortages.
- Elected members would have a key role in getting businesses into communities.

Decision

- 1) To note the update by the Senior Responsible Officer, Regional Prosperity Framework.
- 2) To agree that officers would arrange a session on the plans for the regeneration of the Forth Estuary.

4. Scottish Government Economic Transformation update

An update was provided by Ivan McKee, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise, on Scottish Government Economic Transformation. Mr McKee highlighted that the primary driver for economic development was the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, which was closely aligned to the strategies outlined in the presentation by the Senior Responsible Officer, Regional Prosperity Framework. Ministers would be happy to work with officers on all of the workstreams presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To agree that officials would be in touch with the Minister's office to arrange further discussions.

5. UK Government economic and social ambitions update

An update was provided by Lord Offord, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Scotland Office, on the UK Government economic and social ambitions. Lord Offord's main portfolio responsibilities in the current year were levelling up, city deals,

trade deals and business and economy. The ambitions of the City Region Deal were key ambitions of the UK Government – the Chancellor of the Exchequer had recently stated that he wanted to focus on energy, innovation and infrastructure, which were all key themes of the Regional Prosperity Framework.

Members of the committee and officials were encouraged to be bold, innovative and lead the way. Lord Offord highlighted a specific point about education and skills – the ambitions would only be a success if hard to reach communities are engaged and learn the green skills, digital skills, etc. that will allow them to access the new economy.

During discussion, the following points were made:

- It was important that colleges were not left behind as they would have an important role to play, particular in green skills, which were led by the further education sector.
- It would be remiss not to recognise the economic challenges and poverty that could act as a barrier.
- The emphasis of engaging with primary and secondary schools on digital skills was fundamental.
- There were concerns about the number of employees that would be required to deliver on the billions of investment going into offshore renewables.
- This was a unique moment in terms of agreed common themes across the political spectrum.
- The City Region Deal had been a catalyst for collaboration and working in a joined-up way. The business sector had an important role to play in terms of investment in skills and data.

Decision

To note the update and thank Ministers for their support.

6. Regional Prosperity Framework – update on development of RPF Delivery Framework

Paul Lawrence, Senior Responsible Officer, Regional Prosperity Framework, gave an update on the development of the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan. This work was supported by Ritchie Somerville and colleagues at the University of Edinburgh, who had supported a sprint process (on the back of existing day jobs). Now there was a document that was close to being finalised. It was intended to have the document ready for presentation at the next Elected Member Oversight Committee, followed by engagement with constituent councils over January and February, then to the Joint Committee on 3 March 2023. Ritchie Somerville provided details of the work carried out by the University to support the development of the plan. It was highlighted that this was not a “one and done” plan – it would be dynamic. It was also important to think about the immediate challenges that local authorities faced, in terms of how they were funded, and the broad challenges of revenue funding, when compared to capital. Local authorities were moving into a particularly difficult time, with all councils experiencing large funding gaps. There was no shortage of ambition, but it was important to get the modelling right.

Decision

To note the update.

7. Next Meeting

Decision

To note that the next meeting was scheduled for Friday 13 January 2023.