{Insert Committee}

Time, Date

Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1.   Recommendations

1.1   Members are asked to:

1.2   approve the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan; and

1.3   note that the Delivery Plan will be considered by the other five constituent Local Authorities in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region (ESESCR) ahead of the ESESCR Joint Committee meeting on 3 March 2023.

Insert Name

Insert Contact:

E-mail: Tel:

Report

Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan is the articulation of the next phase of the development of the regional economy, building upon the successes of the City Region Deal. It sets out a prospectus for investment which can deliver on the City Region's ambitions to become the data capital of Europe; support inclusive growth; and a just transition to a net zero economy over the next 20 years

2.2 The document is a live document that will be updated every 12 months to reflect changes to the local, regional, and macro economy and to ensure that regional activity can react and remain relevant to city region partners.

2.3 Over the next 12 months four key programme areas have been identified:

- Green Regeneration of the Forth Estuary;

- Infrastructure & Recovery;

- Visitor Economy & Culture; and

- Data-Driven Innovation.

2.4 The full Delivery Plan can be found in appendix 1.

2.5 To realise the ambitions of the Delivery Plan, Regional Partners will ask both the Scottish and UK Governments to:

- Commit to work in tripartite (UKG/SG/ESES) partnership to progress the Delivery Programme which is aligned with Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation and UK Government Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity priorities; and

- For our Delivery Plan to be supported through a medium to long term, integrated, place-based funding allocation based on shared outcomes.

2.6 The Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan will be considered by the other five constituent Local Authorities in the region ahead of the meeting of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Joint Committee on 3 March 2023.

3.   Background

3.1   The maturity of the regional partnership with UK and Scottish Governments has seen the City Region Deal partners develop an ambitious Regional Prosperity Framework (formerly Growth Framework), approved in September 2021 before being ratified individually by each of the six Local Authorities and the University of Edinburgh Court. Committee ratified the Regional Prosperity Framework 5th October 2021

3.2   The Framework is the articulation of the next phase of the development of the regional economy, building upon the successes of the City Region Deal both in terms of the programmes but also the regional collaboration. It provides a blueprint for regional economic recovery post-pandemic; resilience through the ongoing cost of living crisis; and provides future direction for major projects and investment.

3.3   Since the publication of the RPF, regional partners have been developing the Delivery Plan appended to this report. This period has covered the COVID 19 Pandemic and ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Partners have tried to develop a Delivery Plan that responds to these crises and recognises that this crisis has disproportionately impacted the most economically disadvantaged members of the community, with the cost of basic necessities e.g., food and fuel far exceeding any increases to wages.

4.   Main report

4.1   The Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) provides a blueprint for regional economic recovery post-pandemic; resilience through the ongoing cost of living crisis; and provides future direction for major projects and investment that support inclusive growth and the transition to a net zero economy over the next 20 years.

4.2   The RPF and its Delivery Plan align closely with Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) and the UK Government's Levelling Up White Paper with its funding allocations, and the additional funding allocations available through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. All three of these present major opportunities for our region to truly capitalise on additional funding.

4.3   The Regional Prosperity Framework has a vision to become *the data capital of Europe. We will ensure the social and economic benefits of this capability extend to all. All sections of the community will have the opportunity to develop the key skills that will help to end inequalities in our society. We will protect our environment and make best use of our extraordinary built and natural assets, ensuring that the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region delivers a just transition to a net zero economy. Our institutions, ancient and modern, will deliver positive outcomes that enhance our local, national, and international reputation.*

4.4   The regional partners are committed to this vision and to use it to guide and integrate public, private, and third-sector decisions, actions, collaborations, strategies, policies, and investments across areas such as sustainability, climate change, energy, transport, planning, housing, infrastructure, education, digital,

services, inequalities, well-being, economic development, procurement, and delivery.

4.5 Regional Priorities have been developed around three core themes which support an economy that is **resilient; innovative and flourishing** (see diagram 1 below).
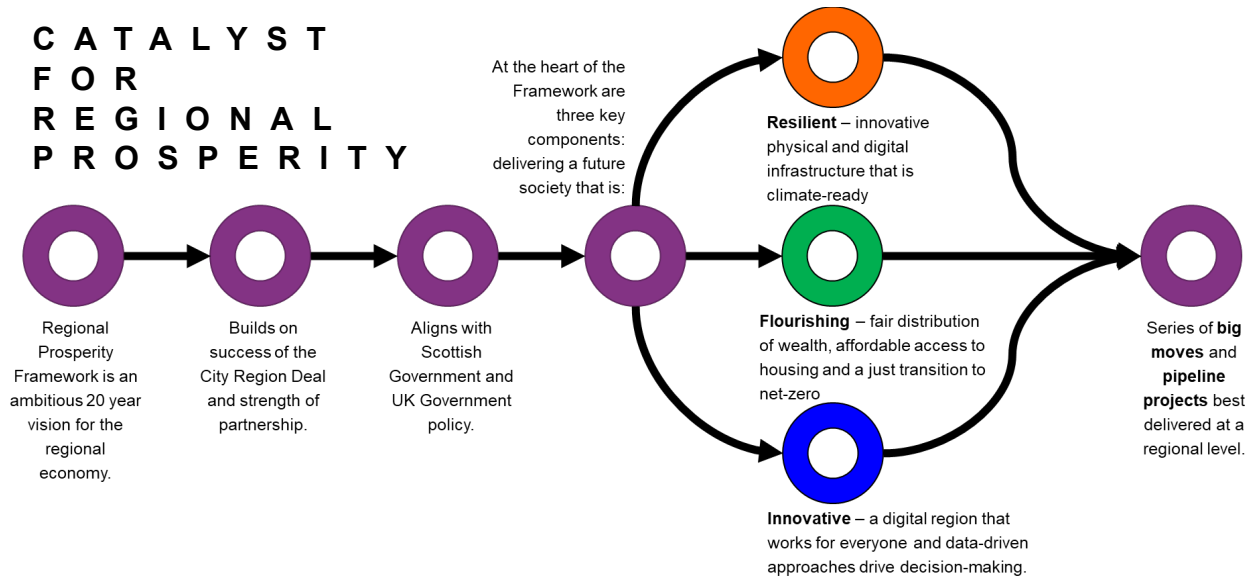

CATALYST FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY

At the heart of the Framework are three key components: delivering a future society that is:

Regional Prosperity Framework is an ambitious 20 year vision for the regional economy.

Builds on success of the City Region Deal and strength of partnership.

Aligns with Scottish Government and UK Government policy.

Resilient – innovative physical and digital infrastructure that is climate-ready

Flourishing – fair distribution of wealth, affordable access to housing and a just transition to net-zero

Innovative – a digital region that works for everyone and data-driven approaches drive decision-making.

Series of **big moves** and **pipeline projects** best delivered at a regional level.

Diagram 1 - Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Process

4.6 All actions under the RPF are framed to support:

- **People** – to access fair work, to learn and develop new skills and to live happy and healthy lives

- **Places** – that are sustainable, and attractive to live and work in and where enterprise thrives

- **Planet** – meeting our needs in a way that will allow future generations to meet theirs, with a focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

4.7 As we emerge from Covid-19 it is a different economic world than the one we had known before. Subsequent global events, such as the war in Ukraine, inflation, and emerging financial and political uncertainties, mean that there is a need to develop a different strategic approach if we are to achieve the shared ambition for the region and to deliver a resilient economy that can meet the needs of its citizens and businesses.

4.8 To be able to reflect current and future economic shocks, the Delivery Plan has been developed as a living document, with the immediate priorities for the region set out over a 1 to 3-year horizon, but in the context of the longer-term ambitions for the region. Regional priorities will be reviewed annually and refreshed to align to current events impacting the regional and local economy. Programmes and projects will be added or subtracted to ensure that continued focus on our ambitions and reflect what is happening at the local, regional, national, and macro level of the economy.

4.9   This Delivery Plan establishes a clear process for delivery of the projects and sets out an ambitious prospectus for investment. Four key programme areas have emerged as the priority for the next 12 months – Green Regeneration of the Forth Estuary; Infrastructure and Recovery; Visitor Economy and Culture; and Data-Driven Innovation. A summary of each programme is outlined below with further detail provided in appendix 1.

Green Regeneration of the Forth Estuary

4.10   From Eyemouth to Grangemouth, the Forth Economic Corridor has the potential to drive transformational economic and climate adaptation through major waterfront regeneration including Granton Waterfront, Blindwells and Cockenzie; reuse and modernising of existing assets, sites, and operations to create strategic net zero employment opportunities; support innovative manufacturing and shipbuilding; and proposals for a Green Freeport aim to underpin and enhance the area's future economic success including the creation of the nation's largest offshore renewable energy hub.

4.11   Cross partner support will be required to establish a Forth Estuary Collaboration Network. Enabling closer collaboration between neighbouring authorities to deliver their national and regional priorities for the Forth, and to promote the reputation of the Forth economic corridor domestically and internationally.

4.12   Key to the future success of the Forth and region the development of future green skills to meet the needs of businesses today and in the future economy whilst creating new high value jobs. The creation of a Net Zero Accelerator Hub can help to address the demand and supply side barriers that exist, helping key sectors begin or accelerate the transition to net zero.

Infrastructure & Recovery

4.13   The most productive regions are the best connected and the most sustainable. Much of Scotland's future population and household growth is set to take place in the region, with available capacity to grow in parts of the region. The scale and nature of the consequential impact on the region's infrastructure is substantial and is crucial to the success of the regional and national economy.

4.14   The housing need and demand in the city region is the greatest in Scotland with nearly 60% of the total annual affordable homes requirement for Scotland needed in our city region. This region delivers more homes than any other part of Scotland and continues to drive construction innovation. Resources are required to sustain and accelerate this activity:

4.15   The Edinburgh & South East Home Demonstrator Project is a new business model for the delivery of Net Zero affordable homes at scale. There are currently 75 Homes are under construction at Granton Waterfront with support required to secure a delivery partner and to scale up a regional pipeline of sites.

4.16   The region needs financial support to both deliver the Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing 2 (EESH2) programme of retrofitting existing homes and continue to build new affordable homes.

4.17 Accelerating delivery of the City Region Deal strategic sites can deliver 35,000 homes, transforming vacant and derelict land to deliver net zero carbon homes.

4.18 It is essential that regional transport priorities are co-ordinated to deliver the aspirations of the: Regional Transport Strategy; Strategic Transport Projects Review 2; and National Strategy for Economic Transformation. This will best ensure that we can : Effect Modal Shift; Promote Mass Transit; Decarbonise Transport (support transition to net zero); and Tackle Transport poverty.

4.19 To deliver on these strategic ambitions, including fairer and more equal economic prosperity, requires a skilled population. We must ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in the labour market. The transition to net zero and the data revolution, in particular, will necessitate a new supply of skills. Housing, transport and skills are essential for removing barriers faced by some in participating and progressing in the labour market and in ensuring that employers have the supply of skills they need. A Net Zero Accelerator Hub proposal is being developed by regional partners.

Visitor Economy & Culture

4.20 The renewal of our world class cultural and visitor offer is key to our regional economy can be realised through establishing a Regional Visitor Economy Partnership to create and deliver a regional visitor economy development plan will allows for collaborative public sector investment and delivery in the visitor economy.

4.21 A Data Driven Innovation led approach to tourism destinations can help to position the region as a global leader in regional data-driven decision-making for strategic tourism investments, aligning and contributing towards the regional ambition of being the Data Capital of Europe.

Data-Driven Innovation

4.22 Embedding and extending the impact of the City Region Deal Data-Driven Innovation investment in the regional and national economy. Ensuring the region provides the skills, support network, data and transport infrastructure needed to grow data-led organisations. Cross partner support is needed to promote the aspiration for the Region to be a Data Capital, and its linkages to delivering Scottish and UK Government Digital and Data Strategies.

4.23 Partners will work to support the operational growth of the TechScaler Network, funded by Scottish Government, and support the ongoing recognition of the Region as a World Leading Centre for Informatics and High-Performance Computing Academic Excellence.

4.24 The delivery programmes above are critical to the region's future economic success, providing clarity for future investment and collaboration to ensure this region has a prosperous net zero future. These programmes will be monitored and reviewed every 12 months to ensure they are still relevant to local, regional, and national partners.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Each of the five other constituent Local Authorities will also consider a report on the RPF Delivery Programme before the City Region Deal Joint committee meets on 3 March 2023.

5.2 Subject to the necessary approvals at the above committees, regional partners will undertake the following:

- Ask both the Scottish and UK Governments to commit to work in tripartite (UKG/SG/ESES) partnership to progress the Delivery Programme which is aligned with Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation and UK Government Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity priorities

- Ask for our Delivery Plan to be supported through a medium to long term, integrated, place-based funding allocation based on shared outcomes

6. Financial impact

6.1 The work on the RPF has been overseen by the City Region Deal Directors Group including representation from both Scottish and UK Government; the Regional Enterprise Council; and the Elected Member Oversight Committee. Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place at City of Edinburgh Council, is Senior Responsible Officer for this activity.

6.2 An officer working group with membership from across each of the six local authorities, the University of Edinburgh, and Scottish Enterprise, supported by the Programme Management Office has developed the Regional Prosperity Framework and Delivery Plan.

6.3 Over the lifetime of the project consultancy support was secured to assist with development work. This was paid for by monies received from Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and £30k SESplan rebate.

6.4 Approval of the RPF Delivery Plan does not commit resources from *{insert Council Name}* or the other five constituent Local Authorities.

6.5 Delivery will be achieved through existing resources and additional public and private sector investment. As external funds are secured programmes and projects will be progressed on a business case basis.

6.6 City Region Partners want the Delivery Plan to be supported through a medium to long term, integrated, place-based funding allocation based on shared outcomes. Officers are developing the case for this funding approach, which should cover the whole-life costs of delivery and will present this to UK and Scottish Government in advance of the UK Government budget next year. Partners will continue to work with Scottish Government to ensure that the RPF Delivery Plan aligns to programmes and spend on NSET, STPR2, infrastructure and other relevant areas.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 The work on the RPF has been overseen by the City Region Deal Directors Group including representation from both Scottish and UK Government; the Regional Enterprise Council; and the Elected Member Oversight Committee.

7.2 Each of the six constituent local authorities are considering the RPF Delivery Plan ahead of the City Region Deal Joint Committee meeting on 3 March 2023 to ensure that any final local contributions are reflected in the final version of the Plan.

7.3 The RPF was approved for public consultation by the City Region Deal Joint Committee on Friday 4 June 2021. The RPF was agreed by the ESESCR Joint Committee in September 2021 and ratified by Policy and Sustainability Committee in October 2021.

7.4 Delivery of the programmes and projects in the RPF Delivery Plan can deliver on the city Regions ambitions to become the data capital of Europe; support inclusive growth; and a just transition to a net zero economy over the next 20 years.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 Regional Prosperity Framework - Final Version, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee - Friday, 3rd September

8.2 Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Annual Report 2021/22, Policy and Sustainability Committee - Tuesday, 1st November,

9. Appendices

Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan – DRAFT (TO BE APPENDED)