

Minutes

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

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 13 January 2023

Present:

Scottish Borders Council – Councillors Euan Robson (in the Chair) and Elaine Thornton-Nicol

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Adam McVey

Midlothian Council – Councillors Russell Imrie and Kelly Parry

East Lothian Council – Councillor John McMillan

Fife Council – Councillors Altany Craik and David Alexander

West Lothian Council – Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

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

Andrew Stewart, Project Manager, East Lothian Council

Ken Gourlay, Executive Director of Enterprise and Environment, Fife Council

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place, Midlothian Council

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

David Robertson, Chief Financial Officer, Scottish Borders Council

Apologies

Councillor Tom Conn (West Lothian Council) and Nile Istephan (Regional Enterprise Council)

1. Order of Business

Decision

- 1) To appoint Councillor Euan Robson as Chair for this meeting of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee.
- 2) To note that that the formal appointment of the Convener of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee take place at next meeting of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee on 3 March 2023.

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. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee of 18 November 2022 as a correct record, subject to the following correction: Simon Earp represented the Higher/Further Education Consortium, rather than the Regional Enterprise Council.

4. Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan - Latest Version

Paul Lawrence, Senior Responsible Officer, Regional Prosperity Framework gave a presentation on the latest version of the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan. The Delivery Plan detailed the Region's Diverse Economy, identifying the unique strengths and assets of our regional economy; Opportunities and Challenges, assessing our regional growth levers and the barriers we must overcome; and Delivering together, describing the aims and priorities for our Plan including the pathway that we can follow to positively impact the regional economy.

During discussion, the following points and suggestions were made:

- The acronym “DDI” should be added to the foreword after Data-driven Innovation.
- It was suggested that the words “for recovery” be removed (“Infrastructure for Recovery”, on the basis that this was a 10-year document.
- Existing skills gaps in key sectors should be included in the employment section.
- Note that the just transition to net zero would require additional investment from government.
- The reference to 4.4 tonnes of CO2 in slide 9 should include an average to give context.
- Glasgow leading on the Regional Intelligence Hub – suggestion that someone from Glasgow be invited to present on this at a future meeting.
- Note that there was some opposition in Edinburgh to the Forth Green Freeport bid.
- Correction on slide 24 (Case Study: Borders Railway, Connectivity section): 40% of journeys **were** not previously made.

Decision

To note the update by the Senior Responsible Officer, Regional Prosperity Framework, and the contributions and suggestions made by committee members.

5. Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan Cover Report - Generic Version

An update was provided by Paul Lawrence, Senior Responsible Officer, Regional Prosperity Framework on the draft shared cover report for officers to use to take to individual councils when reporting on the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan. The cover report could be adapted by each local authority.

Decision

To note the update.

6. Timetable

An update was provided by Paul Lawrence, Senior Responsible Officer, Regional Prosperity Framework and Andy Nichol, Programme Manager, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal/Edinburgh 2050 City Vision, on the timetable for the Delivery Plan, including joint committee individual local authority scrutiny, from the current meeting of the Elected Member Oversight Committee, followed by individual local authority committees over the next 6 weeks or so, then the Joint Committee on the 3 March 2023, and ongoing dialogue by government, followed by submission.

Decision

To note the timetable and agree a further meeting of the Elected Member Oversight Committee in mid-February 2023 to consider any feedback from local authorities, and

an update on STPR2 and how this would align, following a meeting of the City Region Deal Regional Transport Appraisal Board on 6 February, prior to submission to the Joint Committee in March.

7. Meeting Schedule for 2023

Decision

To agree a further meeting of the Elected Member Oversight Committee prior to the Joint Committee on 3 March 2023.