

Minutes

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

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 28 April 2023

Present:

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

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Cammy Day

East Lothian Council – n/a

Midlothian Council – Councillors Russell Imrie and Stuart McKenzie (substituting for Councillor Kelly Parry)

Fife Council – Councillors David Alexander and Altany Craik

West Lothian Council – Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

Higher/Further Education Consortium – David Brown, Simon Earp and Jane Grant

Regional Enterprise Council – Robert Carr and Garry Clark

In attendance:

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

Lisa Howden, Accountant, City of Edinburgh Council

Douglas Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place, East Lothian Council

Jenni Craig, Service Director Customer & Communities, Scottish Borders Council

Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Fife Council

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place, Midlothian Council

Alice Mitchell, Economic Development and Regeneration Manager, West Lothian Council

John Scott, DDI Programme Head of Delivery

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Apologies:

Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh 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 17 February 2023 as a correct record.

3. Regional Prosperity Framework – Progress Update

A progress update was provided on the Regional Prosperity Framework. Subsequent to the last meeting of the Elected Member Oversight Committee, the delivery plan was submitted to the outstanding constituent councils for approval, and it was finally approved by the Joint Committee. Following this, officers had been working closely with Scottish and UK Government civil servants with a view to framing the letter to ministers, which set out the 4 key programmes (Green Regeneration; Infrastructure for Recovery and Prosperity; Visitor Economy and Culture; and Data Driven Innovation (DDI) Economy) in the plan and requested a ministerial meeting.

Decision

- 1) To note the update by the City Region Deal Programme Manager.
- 2) To request that the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Elected Member Oversight Committee join the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

4. Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan – Desktop Version

The full Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan and Prospectus was submitted for noting, following agreement at the last meeting.

Decision

To note the Delivery Plan and Prospectus.

(Reference – Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan – Desktop Version, submitted.)

5. Regional Intelligence Hub – Overview

John Scott, DDI Programme Head of Delivery, gave members an overview on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Intelligence Hub. The proposed approach, while being data-driven, was holistic and people-centred, and took into account a range of perspectives. The Hub would bring together data, analytics, potentially AI, and expertise from within the region to support evidence-based policy-making approaches. It could help create a more sustainable and equitable future for the region. It aimed to foster greater collaboration and promote accountability and transparency.

The next steps would be to agree the full scope of the initiative and consider governance structures. The intention would be to look beyond traditional government sources for funding – there was potential to use funding available to academic institutions.

Decision

To note the update by the DDI Programme Head of Delivery.

6. Date of next meeting

Decision

To be confirmed following discussions with Scottish and UK Government colleagues.