

Minutes

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 1 September 2023

Present:

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Euan Jardine (in the Chair)

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Cammy Day

East Lothian Council – Councillor Norman Hampshire

Fife Council – Councillor David Ross

Midlothian Council – Councillor Russell Imrie

West Lothian Council – Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Regional Enterprise Council – Garry Clark

Higher/Further Education Consortium – Professor Peter Mathieson

In attendance:

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive, Midlothian Council

Monica Patterson, Chief Executive, East Lothian Council

Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council

Andy Nichol, City Region Deal Programme Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council

Jenni Craig, Director – Resilient Communities, Scottish Borders Council

Graeme Rigg, City Region Deal PMO, City of Edinburgh Council

David Baxter, City Region Deal PMO, City of Edinburgh Council

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

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

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

John Mills, Head of Housing, Fife Council

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place, Midlothian Council

Craig McCorriston, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration,
West Lothian Council
Adam Dunkerley, Integrated Regional Employability & Skills and Skills Development
Scotland

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee of 2 June 2023 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

The Work Programme was presented and detailed the planned dates for the City Region Deal business case approvals by Joint Committee.

Decision

To note the planned dates for future business for the City Region Deal Joint Committee.

(Reference – Work Programme, submitted.)

3. City Region Deal Progress Report

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal progress report provided an indication of progress across the City Region Deal programme. In this update, the overall status was assigned as “Green”. There were no actions required from the Joint Committee.

Decision

To note the progress across the City Region Deal Programme.

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, submitted.)

4. City Region Deal Annual Report 2022/23

The City Region Deal Annual Report for 2022/23 was presented to the Joint Committee. It provided an update on progress of the Programme for the fourth year since the signing of the 15-year programme, and contained a City Region Deal overview, Financial Statement (for the financial year 2022-23), a short summary of progress on each project and programme and expected milestones to be achieved in the next year. It showed significant progress across the 20 projects and programmes within the City Region Deal. While cost inflation had affected the budget of some of the projects which are in delivery, all projects were considered to be within

acceptable time parameters and all but one project was considered to be within acceptable budget parameters.

Decision

To note the annual report.

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, submitted.)

5. Regional Housing Programme Annual Update

An update was provided on progress made by City Region Deal partners on the five key regional housing priorities:

- Affordable Housing Delivery (current and future)
- Retrofit - Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing 2 (EESH2)
- Regional Home Demonstrator Project
- Strategic Sites
- Future Town Centres and New Delivery Models.

An update was also provided on regional housing pressures in the context of the recent publication of the COSLA, SOLACE and Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO) paper 'Housing in Scotland - Current Context and Preparing for the Future' which highlighted that Local Authority housing and homelessness services were experiencing unsustainable pressure reflecting the critical lack of capacity in local housing systems in Scotland.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Chair of City Region Deal Housing Board and progress made on the Regional Housing Programme priorities.
- 2) To note that there was a meeting due to take place between City Region Deal partners and the Housing Minister, with exact timings to be agreed, and that it was recommended that at this meeting the following items would be raised:
 - 2.1 Highlight that our region was currently facing a situation where affordable housing sites may stall due to insufficient funding. Many of the Local Authorities were in a position where Resource Planning Assumptions were already largely committed for this year and therefore, without additional investment, affordable housing projects that were currently coming forward may become undeliverable. As our Region was viewed by the Scottish Government as a key deliverer of affordable housing in Scotland, it was recommended that we ask for frontloading of the Local Authority RPAs for our area to maximise new

housing supply over the next 20 years to meet housing and homelessness needs.

- 2.2 Highlight the scale of the challenges and opportunities associated with the city region strategic sites and the need for innovative funding and risk sharing approaches to enable delivery.

(Reference – report by the Chair of City Region Deal Housing Board, submitted.)

6. City Region Deal Benefits Realisation Update

A presentation was provided on City Region Deal Benefits Realisation. Details were provided of the Construction Dashboard, which included details of the numbers of apprentices and trainees, employees upskilled, and how spending had been distributed. An overview was also provided of some of the key projects, including the Dunard Centre, Fife Innovation Zone and the three Data Driven Innovation (DDI) Hubs, along with the Benefits Realisation Risk Register and Timeline.

Decision

To note the presentation.

7. Audit Scotland Report: “Scotland’s City Region and Growth Deals Progress of the 2020 audit report recommendations

In June 2023, Audit Scotland published their briefing: Scotland's City Region and Growth Deals: Progress of the 2020 audit report recommendations. The briefing looked at progress against 11 of the recommendations made about City Region and Growth Deals in their 2020 report, which was reported to this Committee in March 2020. It also set out some key developments in the regional economic landscape over the last three years. Details were provided to the Joint Committee of the references made in the briefing to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and the partners' position in relation to each statement.

Decision

- 1) To note the summary of the findings of the Audit Scotland briefing: Scotland's City Region and Growth Deals: Progress of the 2020 audit report recommendations
- 2) To note that City Region Deal Programme Management Office (PMO) had carefully noted the feedback and is continually working to improve management processes.

(Reference – report by the Head of Internal Audit, City of Edinburgh Council, submitted.)