

# Minutes

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

### **Microsoft Teams**

**10.00am, Friday 3 November 2023**

#### **Present:**

**Scottish Borders Council** – Councillors Euan Robson (in the Chair)

**City of Edinburgh Council** – Councillor Adam Nols-McVey

**East Lothian Council** – Councillor John McMillan

**Midlothian Council** – Councillors Russell Imrie

**Fife Council** – Councillors David Alexander and Altany Craik

**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

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

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

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

Douglas Proudfoot, Executive Director for Place, East Lothian Council

Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Fife Council

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place, Midlothian Council

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

Rui Cardoso, Head of Data Insight, Smart Data Foundry  
Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council  
Neil Christison, Regional Director – Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian and Midlothian, Visit Scotland

### **Apologies:**

Councillors Tom Conn and Kirsteen Sullivan (West Lothian Council)

## **1. Declarations of Interest**

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Robert Carr declared non-financial interests in the items as a consultant 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**

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### **Decision**

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee of 3 August 2023 as a correct record, subject to the following correction: Simon Earp was in attendance.

## **2. Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan - Next Steps Post Ministerial Meeting**

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An update was provided on the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan, following the meeting with Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care and Lord Offord, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Exports). Despite the limited time available, the meeting had provided assurance that priorities were aligned. Some of the practicalities of the meeting were difficult – the acoustics in the room along with the virtual element were challenging. Ministers welcomed continuing dialogue, so a further meeting was anticipated.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To recommend that elements from the presentation on the Regional Intelligence Centre be included in the next letter to ministers, along with points around ethical AI.
- 3) To agree that Andy Nichol would agree the final letter with the Chair of the EMOC.

### **3. Regional Visitor Economy / Regional Intelligence Hub – Overview**

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Neil Christesen, Visit Scotland, provided statistics on visitor spend and employment in the tourism industry. Details were provided of the creation of the Visitor Economy Partnership and strategic document, which brought together the national, regional and local strategies, visions, priorities, etc. The Partnership included the six local authorities in the region, University of Edinburgh and Visit Scotland. The Tourism Strategy, that was launched just before the pandemic, focused not only on the visitor, but the people, residents in communities, place and environment, and linked to the Regional Prosperity Framework. A process of engaging with local authorities through a series of workshops led to several project proposals, which had now been reduced to three that would have the biggest possible impact: one on a data driven innovation (DDI) approach to the visitor economy, one on cycle tourism, and the third around culture and the creation of a regional creative content and touring network.

Rui Cardoso, Head of Data Insight, Smart Data Foundry, gave a presentation on the Regional Intelligence Hub and the development of a proposal to Scottish Government. The Hub would be based in Edinburgh and would enable inclusive decision-making. It would respond to the challenges that faced society, including healthcare, transportation, education, and economic development. The Hub would enable a coordinated approach to responding to these challenges, by involving the public sector, businesses, and communities in decision-making. The Hub had four key goals: data collection, expert engagement, cross-sector collaboration, and community involvement. The long-term benefits would be improved policies, an enhanced data landscape, increased research, and better community services.

#### **Decision**

To note the updates.

### **4. Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan - Presentation including detail of Government Asks**

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Paul Lawrence provided a presentation to update members on the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan, including details of the estuary programme, the Net Zero Accelerator Hub, the Green Freeport OBC, the economic corridor, and the associated revenue and capital asks for government. There was discussion around the £50m in the deal on the Strategic Housing Investment Fund and how that funding would be unlocked.

#### **Decision**

To note the update.

### **5. AOB**

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Andy Nichol gave an update on the recent meeting with the Paul McLennan, Minister for Housing, which had been very positive. He had invited officers to clarify the Strategic Housing Investment Fund monies in the deal, which were at least £50m. He was keen to establish a proactive relation and was keen to visit the strategic sites,

and to look at institutional investment. Mr McLennan recommended that officers prepare a draft investment prospectus, including different funding models and requirements. A workshop session was being arranged to start to prepare this.

Councillor Imrie gave an update on recent discussions with colleagues about the lack of a coordinated approach to deliver infrastructure to support electric vehicles. The EMOC discussed the possibility of developing a master plan for the region, and finding a suitable partner to deliver this.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the updates
- 2) To agree that Paul Lawrence would raise the points made about electric charging infrastructure with colleagues and bring something back.

## **5. Date of next meeting**

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### **Decision**

To be confirmed.