

Minutes

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

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 16 February 2024

Present:

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

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor James Dalglish (substituting for Councillor Day)

East Lothian Council – Councillors Norman Hampshire and John McMillan

West Lothian Council – Councillor Tom Conn

Midlothian Council – Councillors Russell Imrie and Kelly Parry

Fife Council – Councillors David Alexander and Altany Craik

Higher/Further Education Consortium – Simon Earp and Pete Smith

Regional Enterprise Council – Robert Carr, Garry Clark and Nile Istephan

In attendance:

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive, Midlothian Council

Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council

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

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

Lisa Howden, Accountant, City of Edinburgh Council

Jamie Robertson, Strategic Transport Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

Morag Millar, Strategic Growth & City Deals Programme Manager, Fife Council
(attending for Gordon Mole)

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place, Midlothian Council

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

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Brian Butler, Partnership Director, SEStran

Apologies:

Councillors Cammy Day and Kirsteen Sullivan, David Brown

1. Declarations of Interest

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

Decision

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

2. RPF Delivery Plan Update and Ministerial Engagement

An update was provided on the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan, and ministerial engagement. In the Scottish Government's budget this year, no funding had been identified for the two priority recommendations from the Scottish Government's Regional Economic Policy review. Officers had provided a list of major unfunded projects and would continue to engage with Scottish Government, Scotland Office and the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Officers had also recently had a discussion with COSLA and Scottish Government about their population strategy. Given the funding challenges, the intention was for officers to pull together a clear picture of what funding streams might be available, and consider innovative funding solutions.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.

- 2) To note that a number of events were planned for this year which would give the opportunity to highlight the achievements of the City Region Deal.

3. Strategic Site Investment Prospectus

A presentation was provided on the Regional Strategic Site Investment Prospectus, which included details of the seven strategic sites, and would together deliver over 40,000 new homes, create 7,800 jobs and contribute over £10 billion to the wider economy. Opportunities and challenges were discussed – the ambition was to collaborate to develop funding solutions to unlock infrastructure and investment constraints. Officers were engaging with government ministers to ask for support with the establishment of a Strategic Site Taskforce and strategic alignment with financial innovation opportunities, including capital and revenue allocations, and delivery mechanisms and models for the sites to enable infrastructure first.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To ask constituent authorities to create a one page summary of issues across the region for each authority, and request an update report to the next meeting (or engagement with members directly).

4. Regional Transport Projects Update

Brian Butler, the Partnership Director at SEStran gave update on Regional Transport projects. A concordat had been developed between SEStran and the City Region Deal which aligned objectives around economic development and land-use planning. The Regional Prosperity Framework was now fully aligned with SEStran's Regional Transport Strategy; a joint series of workshops was currently being planned to identify regional priorities and proactively target funding. An update was also provided on the proposed reinstatement of the Bus Partnership.

Details were provided of the regional approach to electric vehicle infrastructure procurement. Local authorities would need to work collaboratively to develop an infrastructure of low-cost, conveniently located electric vehicle chargers. Details were provided of work in this area carried out by other local authorities, and Glasgow City Region Deal.

Decision

To note the update.

5. Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment

Decision

To agree to continue this item to the next meeting.

6. Date of next meeting

Decision

To be confirmed.