

Minutes

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

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 17 May 2024

Present:

West Lothian Council – Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan (Convener) and Councillor Tom Conn

East Lothian Council – Councillors Norman Hampshire and John McMillan

Midlothian Council – Councillors Russell Imrie and Kelly Parry

Fife Council – Councillors David Alexander and Ian Cameron (substituting for Altany Craik)

Scottish Borders Council – Councillors Elaine Thornton-Nicol and Euan Robson

Higher/Further Education Consortium – David Brown and Anne-Marie Sturrock (substituting for Pete Smith)

Regional Enterprise Council – Robert Carr and Garry Clark

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 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

Andrew Stewart, Project Manager, East Lothian Council

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

Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Fife Council

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

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

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Ben Connor, Head of Climate Ready Placemaking, Sniffer

Catherine Payne, Senior Climate Resilience Manager, Sniffer

1. Rotation of Convener

The Committee noted its thanks to the outgoing Convener, Councillor Robson, and noted Councillor Sullivan's appointment by the Joint Committee as the new Convener of the Elected Member Oversight Committee.

2. 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.

3. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Elected Member Oversight Committee of 16 February 2024 as a correct record, subject to the following correction: Pete Smith was in attendance.

4. Climate Ready South East Scotland - Overview and Update

Ben Connor, Head of Climate Ready Placemaking, and Catherine Payne, Senior Climate Resilience Manager, at Sniffer, provided a presentation on Climate Ready South East Scotland, including details of the primary projects in South East Scotland. Sniffer was a sustainability charity based in Edinburgh, who worked with people, places, organisations and communities to help them flourish in a changing climate. Climate Ready South East Scotland was a new project, led by Sniffer, with the aim of working with the six local authorities to gain a better understanding of how climate change would affect the region. The project was being delivered as part of the regional prosperity framework, and funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Details were provided of the aims of the project, the approach being taken, and an update on recent activities and what was coming next.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.

- 2) To request that the slides be circulated to the Committee.
- 3) To request that a progress report be submitted to Committee at a later date.

5. Regional Prosperity Framework Update (including annual report)

An update was provided on key progress made on the delivery of the programmes and projects identified within the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan. In contrast to much of the rest of Scotland, the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region continued to experience rapid population and economic growth. Accommodating this growth was becoming an increasing challenge for many of the Local Authorities and an approach to both reflect this challenge and deliver sustainable growth in the region was proposed.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the report and progress made on the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan.
- 2) To approve the proposed approach to continue to deliver sustainable growth in the ESES City Region.
- 3) To agree that the letter from Minister Young would be shared with the Committee.
- 4) To ask officers to consider how the Regional Prosperity Framework can help to invest in the wider visitor offering, in preparation for the visitor levy, to ensure that people come, and come back to visit the region.

6. Strategic Site Investment Prospectus - Update

An update was provided on the Strategic Site Investment Prospectus, following the previous update to committee on 16 February 2024. Details were provided of key actions since the last update and intended next steps. A workshop was held with Chief Finance Officers, Scottish Futures Trust and Scottish Government to explore the potential for innovative funding models. It was agreed there was a need for further joint working to look at the scope, scale and duration of support, potentially as an extension of that set out in the Deal. A follow-up meeting with Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust was held and it was agreed an early draft of the Strategic Sites Prospectus should be concluded by June 2024. The University of Edinburgh was working with the Deal PMO to prepare economic impact modelling work.

Decision

To note the update and that a draft of the Strategic Site Investment Prospectus would be made available to the Committee.

7. Date of next meeting

Decision

To note the next meeting was scheduled for 16 August 2024.