

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

10 am, Friday 6 December 2019

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Progress Update

Item number

Executive Summary

The City Region Deal commits partners to the objectives of accelerating economic and inclusive growth.

The Joint Committee has a monitoring and assurance role with respect to City Region Deal funding to ensure that it is spent in line with the City Region Deal objectives.

Good progress is being made from partners and Government towards developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, to be reported to Joint Committee on 6 March 2020.

This will measure not only the impact that the projects and programmes towards the objectives set out in their respective business cases, but will also measure how the City Region Deal is performing in relation to the five themes in its Inclusive Growth Framework. The impact of the Deal on people with protected characteristics and environmental sustainability will also be captured.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will also set out the process for change controls for projects, for example what will happen if a project is underperforming. Tolerances will be set for when projects require Thematic Board or Joint Committee/Government exception reports.

Andy Nichol

City Region Deal Programme Manager

E-mail: andy.nichol@edinburgh.gov.uk |

Tel: 0131 529 4461



Monitoring and Evaluation: Progress Update

1. Recommendations

Committee is asked to:

- 1.1 Note that significant progress has been made in the development of a robust Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the City Region, in partnership with both UK and Scottish Governments.
- 1.2 Note that the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will be submitted to Joint Committee for approval on 6 March 2020.

2. Background

- 2.1 The City Region Deal, signed by partners, UK Government and Scottish Government on 7 August 2018 committed partners to the objectives of accelerating economic and inclusive growth. As part of this, partners are tasked with ensuring the regular review and evaluation of projects funded by the Deal¹:

“The city regional partners are committed to putting in place robust decision-making and financial management processes to ensure that public money is being spent responsibly and is accounted for. All decisions will be publicly available”.

[Deal Document](#): p. 29 (Section 3.12)

- 2.2 The Joint Committee has a monitoring and assurance role with respect to City Region Deal funding to ensure that it is spent in line with the City Region Deal objectives:

“It is recognised that the Joint Committee’s powers and duties relate to activities set out in the City Region Deal. Each constituent partner’s decision-making in relation to its own financial commitments are not subject to Joint Committee approval. The Joint Committee does however have a monitoring and assurance role with respect to City Region Deal funding to ensure that it is spent in line with the City Region Deal objectives”.

[Deal Document](#): p. 29 (Section 3.13)

- 2.3 A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will measure not only the impact that the projects and programmes towards the objectives set out in their respective business

¹ As stated in the [Deal Document](#)

cases, but will also measure how the City Region Deal is performing in relation to the five themes in its Inclusive Growth Framework:

- i. Accelerating inclusive growth to unlock new talent pools for business, promoting fair work, and equipping disadvantaged citizens with the skills they need to succeed;*
- ii. Removing the barriers to growth through interventions to unlock current physical barriers to growth, including housing and transport;*
- iii. Delivering community benefits through procurement by integrating partner approaches to employer engagement and procurement to increase the value achieved from investments;*
- iv. Targeting employability and skills interventions by widening access and addressing skills shortages to boost the flow of individuals from disadvantaged groups into good career opportunities; and,*
- v. Delivering social benefit through innovation through challenged-based social benefit projects and programmes across the City Region.*

[Deal Document](#): pp. 9 and 10

2.4 The impact of the Deal on people with protected characteristics and environmental sustainability will also be captured in the Framework.

2.5 The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will also set out the process for change controls for projects, for example what will happen if a project is underperforming. Tolerances will be set for when projects require Thematic Board or Joint Committee/Government exception reports.

3. Main report

3.1 For the first year of the 15-year City Region Deal, partners focused on establishing the governance structure across the Deal. This enabled seven business cases and seven project propositions, worth £737 million or 55% of the Deal to be approved by September 2019.

3.2 With the governance in place by summer of 2019, focus has turned to developing an appropriate Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

3.3 The Framework is on track to be completed for Joint Committee approval in March 2020. This is one cycle later than originally stated in the [Annual Report](#) where partners committed to completion by December 2019. The change in timescales is because all parties are keen to ensure that the framework is scrutinised and widely consulted on to ensure that the methodology and indicators are the most appropriate.

3.4 The Framework is very much a co-production between City Region Deal Partners and both Governments. The Framework is being drafted in line with Government [Magenta Book](#) guidance, Advice is also being sought from sustainability experts in Government and the Equalities and Human Rights commission and on how to best capture the impacts on the environment and people with protected characteristics. The principles in the framework will be designed in a way such that they can be shared and adapted as necessary to suit out to other City Region and Growth Deals in Scotland

3.5 It is anticipated that, once in place, the Monitoring and Evaluation of the outputs, outcomes and where relevant intermediate impacts of the Deal will form part of the regularly reporting cycles set out for the future management (and oversight) of City Region Deal performance, namely:

- **Quarterly Reporting:** Quarterly performance measures for all projects and programmes will be incorporated into the existing Progress report, shared at each Thematic Board, Executive Board and Joint Committee Board meeting
- **Annual Reporting:** A detailed summary of performance measures for projects and programmes will be incorporated into future Annual Reports.

3.6 The table below shows the timescales that partners are working towards:

Action	Timescale
PMO will circulate indicator template for review and completion by Theme leads	By 29/11/19
Template completed and returned to PMO	By 13/12/19
Governments to provide guidance on change control procedures	By 13/12/19
Summary indicators paper to be provided to Governments for review	By 20/12/19
Governments provide final views on indicators	By 17/01/20
PMO finalises and releases M&E Plan for parallel review by Theme and Government Leads (including indicators, M&E approaches and change control processes)	By 24/01/20
Final comments received and provided to PMO (from Theme and Government Leads)	By 07/02/20
PMO submits final M&E plan for sign off by all parties	By 14/02/20
Presentation to Joint Committee	06/03/20

4. Financial impact

- 4.1 It is anticipated that partners will fund Monitoring and Evaluation as part of their contribution to the Deal. Both Governments are considering more flexibility for resourcing PMO within the envelope, but it is highly unlikely that there will be additional money for Monitoring and Evaluation in particular. Nevertheless, partners will share the estimated cost with Government to give an indication of the value for money of the process.

5. Equalities impact

- 5.1 A core principle of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is to measure the impact that the Deal programmes and projects will have on people with protected characteristics. Advice is being sought from the Equalities and Human Rights commission and on how to best capture these impacts.

6. Background reading/external references

- 6.1 [Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Document, August 2018](#)
 6.2 [The Magenta Book](#)

7. Appendices

None.