

# The City of Edinburgh Council

10.00am, Thursday 21 March 2020

## Elected Members' Oversight Sub-Committee

Executive/routine

Wards All

Council Commitments [1](#), [2](#), [4](#), [6](#), [7](#), [10](#), [18](#), [19](#)

### 1. Recommendation

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This report recommends that Council appoints two Members to sit on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESESCR) Elected Members' Oversight Sub-Committee.

**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

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# Report

## Elected Members' Oversight Sub-Committee

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 A cross-regional Elected Members' Oversight Sub-Committee is being formed to scrutinise the new Regional Growth Framework for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region. Two elected members will be appointed from each of the six constituent local authorities, together with representatives from the Regional Enterprise Council and the Higher/Further Education Consortium. In terms of the 1973 Local Government (Scotland) Act, no more than one third of the membership can be drawn from outwith constituent local authorities. This report gives background to the process and recommends that Council agrees two nominees to represent the City of Edinburgh Council on the Committee.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 Council has received regular reports on the progress of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. The most recent was to the meeting of Council on [24 October 2019](#). That report summarised the first Annual Report and Annual Conversation, and noted the decision of the ESESCR Deal Joint Committee on [3 September 2019](#) to prepare a Regional Growth Framework (RGF) in order to assist delivery of greater alignment across planning, housing, transport and economic development, and thereby maximise the regional inclusive growth outcomes that are central to the City Region Deal. The report to this Council in October also noted other relevant issues supporting the preparation of an RGF, notably the emerging national planning and transport policies and strategies.
- 3.2 The report to Council in October 2019 also informed that the ESESCR Deal Joint Committee had agreed governance arrangements for the City Region preparation of the RGF, which includes the formation of an Elected Members' Oversight Sub-Committee (EMOC). The Committee would oversee the preparation of the RGF, as well as subsequent preparation of the Regional Spatial Strategy. The EMOC would be established as a sub-committee of the ESESCR Deal Joint Committee and its responsibilities would be within the existing powers of the Joint Committee. The EMOC would advise and recommend to the City Region Deal Joint Committee. The City Region Deal Joint Committee would have ultimate responsibility for approving the RGF, but only once each of the ESESCR Deal partner Councils had agreed the

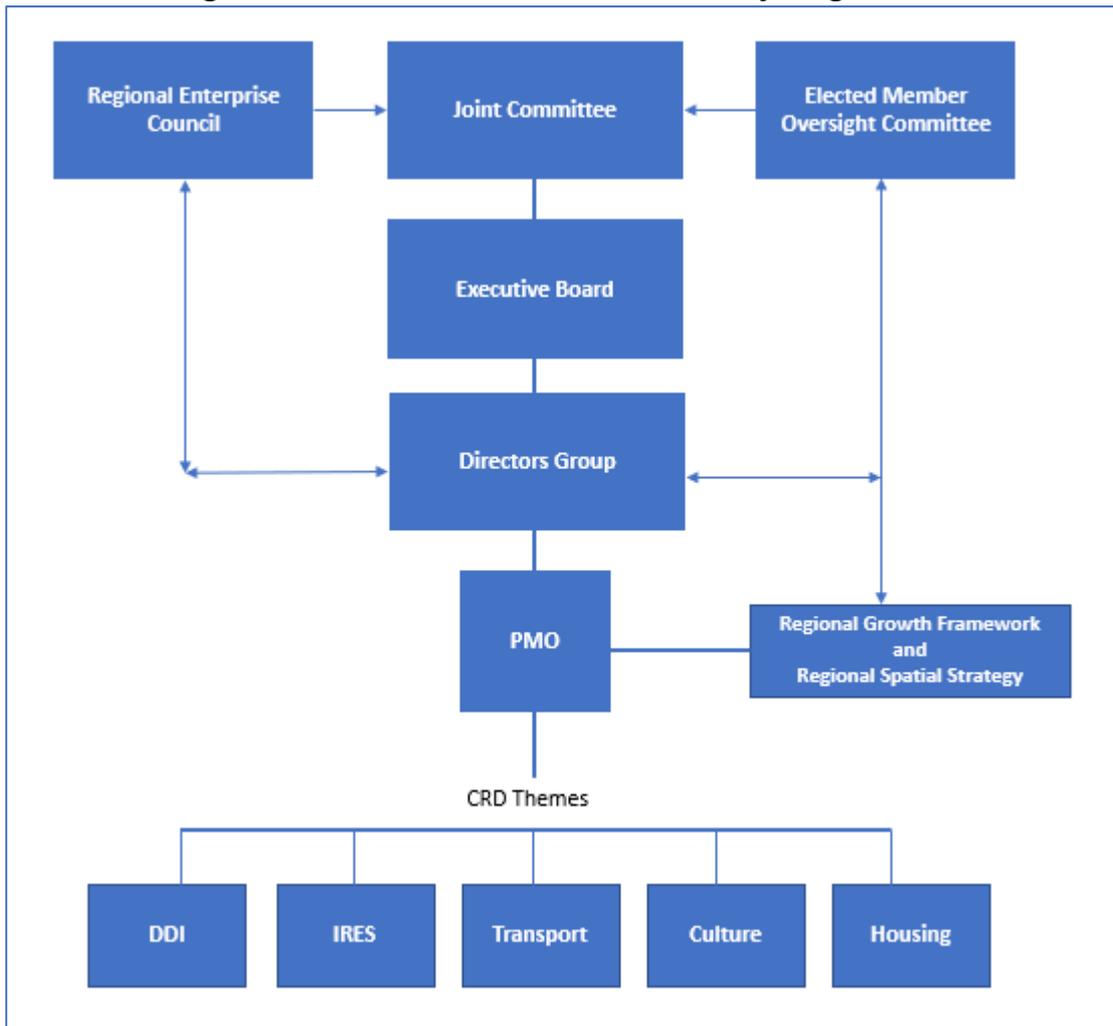
content of the RGF. The EMOC will comprise two councillors from each of the six partner Councils (City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian), together with representatives from the City Region Deal Regional Enterprise Council and City Regional Deal Higher/Further Education consortium. In terms of the 1973 Local Government (Scotland) Act, no more than one third of the membership can be drawn from outwith constituent local authorities. The Terms of Reference for the EMOC are appended.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 Demonstrable benefits which can be realised from the preparation of an RGF include: providing a context for City Region Deal investment projects; establishing a regional economic strategy; and providing a positive statement of regional strategic intent to influence emerging national policies and strategies, particularly in relation to planning and transport.
- 4.2 The nature of the RGF document and its preparation is under consideration and will need to be a matter for the EMOC to examine at an early date. Guidance for the preparation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) has not yet been released. As it will be a critically important statement, and one which will provide direction to the preparation of the subsequent Regional Spatial Strategy, the role of elected members will be significant. A particular consideration will be the need to ensure the inclusive nature of the RGF, through genuine regional partnership working not only within the governance structure of the City Region Deal, but also with bodies at national level such as Scottish Enterprise and Transport Scotland, and at regional level including the partnerships for transport (SEStran) and planning (SESplan). In addition, greater awareness of the City Region Deal within our communities, and genuine engagement on the RGF will need to be an integral part of the process.
- 4.3 Figure 1 shows the proposed governance structure for the City Region Deal, building on what was agreed in the [City Region Deal Document](#), signed in August 2018.

**Figure 1: Governance Structure for City Region Deal**



## 5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The EMOC will hold its first meeting once partners have appointed their nominees and will then meet monthly. It will engage with relevant Boards, committees and organisations including: the ESESCR Deal Joint Committee, City Region Deal Thematic Board (including the Transport Appraisal Board and the Regional Housing Board), SESplan and SEStran.

## 6. Financial impact

- 6.1 At present, there is no indication that preparation of the RGF and RSS, including the governance arrangements, will require any additional budget contributions from partner Councils and bodies. This assumes that there is existing staff resource within the partner Councils to support the preparation of the RGF and RSS. As the programme for preparation of the RGF and RSS is only at an initial stage this matter of resource requirements will need to be kept under review.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 A fundamental aim of the City Region Deal is to achieve inclusive growth across the whole region including the more disadvantaged communities, thereby creating new opportunities; particularly in the areas of skills, employability and housing. The RGF and RSS can reinforce this aim and its intended outcomes.
- 7.2 Inclusion and sustainable place-making and the recognition of climate change and the low carbon agenda will be central to the RGF and RSS. The RGF and RSS will align with the Scottish Government's Inclusive Growth Framework, and upcoming Climate Change Plan under development, and other key national and several other relevant national and regional policies which have inclusion and sustainability central to them, including recommendations from the Infrastructure Commission in advance of the Capital Spending Review, the new Strategic Transport Planning Review 2, the new Regional Transport Strategy and National Planning Framework 4.
- 7.3 The Regional Enterprise Council, who represent the region's business and third sectors, will be actively involved in shaping the RGF. The chair and vice chair of the Regional Enterprise Council also sit on the City Region Deal Joint Committee.
- 7.4 The RGF will also be designed with equalities, human rights, poverty and sustainability in mind, and is being developed with input from the Scottish Government and Equalities and Human Rights Commission.
- 7.5 The EMOC will consist of twelve councillors, from the six local authorities representing a fair regional spread, together with representatives from the regional Higher/Further Education consortium and the Regional Enterprise Council.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 [City Region Deal Document \(August 2018\)](#)
- 8.2 [Annual Report – report to City Region Deal Joint Committee \(September 2019\)](#)
- 8.3 [Regional Growth Framework Proposition – report to City Region Deal Joint Committee \(September 2019\)](#)
- 8.4 [Previous Joint Committee Papers and webcast link](#)

## **9 Appendices**

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1. Elected Members' Oversight Sub-Committee Terms of Reference

## **Elected Member Oversight Sub-Committee**

### **1. Membership**

Two Members from each constituent Council, one member from the Higher Education/Further Education consortium and up to two members from the Regional Enterprise Council.

### **2. Convener/Chair**

The chair will be appointed by the Joint Committee and should be from the Council in the annual lead role for the City Region Deal.

### **3. Quorum**

The Quorum will be one-third of the membership.

### **4. Substitutes**

Substitutes are permitted from the same local authority.

### **5. Officers**

Officers will attend to support meetings.

### **6. Remit**

The powers and responsibilities of the Elected Member Oversight Sub-Committee cannot extend beyond those of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee. The remit of the Elected Member Oversight Sub-Committee would be:-

- a. To provide oversight of the Regional Growth Framework and Regional Spatial Strategy.
- b. To support and drive a co-ordinated approach to the development of the Regional Growth Framework and Regional Spatial Strategy.
- c. To support and encourage a sustainable approach to managing growth which aligns to local sustainability, energy and low carbon plans and strategies.
- d. To encourage and facilitate a close working partnership with SEStran, SESplan and other relevant organisations.
- e. To provide oversight and consider recommendations from the Regional Housing Board and the Transport Appraisal Board.
- f. To scrutinise the work of the SESplan Officer Board in regard to the Regional Growth Framework.
- g. To advise the City Region Deal Joint Committee in regard to the Regional Growth Framework and Regional Spatial Strategy.

### **7. Meeting Frequency**

The sub-committee will usually meet monthly but may meet more frequently if determined necessary by the Chair or the Sub-Committee.