

# Minutes

## **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee**

**Main Council Chamber, City Chambers, Edinburgh**

**10.00am, Friday 6 March 2020**

**Present:**

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

**East Lothian Council** – Councillor Norman Hampshire (substituting for Councillor Willie Innes) (In the Chair)

**Fife Council** – Councillor David Ross, Councillor David Alexander

**Midlothian Council** – Councillor Derek Milligan

**Scottish Borders Council** – Councillor Shona Haslam

**West Lothian Council** – Councillor Tom Cowan

**Higher/Further Education Consortium** – Professor Peter Mathieson

**Regional Enterprise Council** – Leeann Dempster and Claire Pattullo

**In attendance:**

Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council

Monica Patterson, Chief Executive, East Lothian Council

Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive, Midlothian Council

Andy Nichol, City Region Deal Programme Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

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

Rob Dickson, Executive Director, Scottish Borders Council

Ian Johnson, Head of Communities and Economy, Midlothian Council

Veronica MacMillan, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

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

Adam Dunkerley, Opportunities Fife Partnership Manager

Professor Peter Mathieson, (Higher/Further Education Consortium)  
Jarmo Eskelinen (Data-Driven Innovation Programme)  
John Scott (Data-Driven Innovation Programme)  
Claire Pattullo (Regional Enterprise Council)

## **1. Minutes**

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### **Decision**

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee of 6 December 2019 as a correct record.

## **2. Work Programme**

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The Work Programme was presented and detailed the planned dates for the City Region Deal business case approvals by Joint Committee.

### **Decision**

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, submitted)

## **3. Presentation: Data Driven Innovation Programme Update**

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Professor Peter Mathieson from The University of Edinburgh provided a short introduction. Professor Mathieson advised that the University of Edinburgh had recently published its 10 year strategy (Strategy 2030) which was linked with the DDI Innovation Programme. Various goals within the strategy aligned with the DDI Innovation Programme, for example, carbon neutrality, preparing graduates for the future and work in schools.

Hugh Edmiston had been the Senior Responsible Officer for the DDI Programme was leaving his post as he had a job in Singapore. Johnathan Seckl would be taking over that role.

Jarmo Eskelinen, DDI Programme Director, and John Scott, Head of Delivery, gave a presentation on the DDI Programme. After a year and a half, the Programme was well on track and the last of the 5 innovation hubs would be completed by 2024.

Mr Eskelinen advised that the base centre had been operational for a year and was full. There were 40 companies hosted there, that included RBS, and 30 start-ups that started in the last cohort.

In partnership with Heriot Watt University, the National Robotarium was a research and development facility which would translate research into technologies to create disruptive innovation in an expanding market designed to deliver sustainable economic benefit to Edinburgh, the UK and beyond.

The Easter Bush Campus would be refitted, and the Edinburgh International Data Facility which would be a unique data storage facility.

Mr Eskelinen provided updates on the data innovation works within the NHS and other sectors and how the Programme was looking to transform companies across the region.

### **Decision**

To note the presentation.

## **4. City Region Deal Progress Report**

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Details were provided of a progress report that was being used across the City Deal's governance structure to monitor progress across all aspects of the City Region Deal. It was updated and shared with the Government on a weekly basis and was taken to all Board meetings. A RAG (Red, Amber, Green) scale was assigned to programmes and projects by the Project Management Office (PMO), as well as scored for inclusive growth and partnership working.

In this update, the overall status was assigned as 'Amber'. There were no actions required for the Joint Committee.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the progress across the City Region Deal Programme.
- 2) To agree that the Lead Officer would liaise with Transport Scotland regarding the £2.6m grant claim in terms of costs/spend and would feed back to the Joint Committee.

(Reference – report by the City Region Deal Programme Manager, City of Edinburgh Council, submitted.)

## **5. Audit Scotland Report on City Region and Growth Deals**

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On 16 January 2020, Audit Scotland published their report on City Region/Growth Deals in Scotland. The report provided an early assessment of City Region and Growth Deals in Scotland, rather than performance of individual Deals. The report was based on interviews with key individuals representing the 12 existing and emerging city region / growth deals during the course of 2018 and early 2019.

Their key recommendation was that the Deals must have robust performance measures to demonstrate impact and value for money. Other findings of note were that it was also not clear why some deal projects were approved for funding over others, while local communities had had very little involvement in deals.

The City Region Deal partners were giving sustained and proper consideration to Audit Scotland's findings and had developed an action plan to address these issues. A table

detailing all for the Audit Scotland recommendations and the specific City Region Deal position and response formed Appendix 2 to the report.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the summary of the findings of the Audit Scotland Report on City Region/Growth Deals, published on 16 January 2020.
- 2) To note that the City Region Deal Programme Management Office (PMO) had an action plan in place to address the issues identified in the Audit Scotland report.
- 3) To note that the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal was under development jointly with the Scottish and UK Government and would be presented to the Joint Committee on the 5 June 2020.

(Reference – report by the City Region Deal Programme Manager, City of Edinburgh Council, submitted).

## **6. ESES Regional Response to National Planning Framework 4 “Call for Ideas”**

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The Joint Committee considered a report on the draft regional response to the NPF4 “Call for Ideas” which was appended to the report.

The key message was the regional submission to Government which was that the South East Scotland was the engine of Scotland’s economy. Unless it performed to its potential, Scotland would also lag. The key challenge for the region was that the benefits of success were not experienced by all individuals and communities, and nor were they shared across local authority areas which made up the partnership. Places like the Scottish Borders and parts of Fife did not share the same characteristics of success. Much more needed to be done to ensure that as many of the people across all places within the region could share in benefits in the future. These benefits must also be realised in the most sustainable way possible to respond to the climate challenge.

A holistic approach was required, with some major, planned, integrated initiatives that would allow the generation and spread sustainable inclusive growth. Regional partners intended to work with, and risk-share with Government to make this happen.

### **Decision**

To approve the draft regional response to the NPF4 “Call for Ideas”, subject to ratification by individual Councils, the SESplan Joint Committee and SEStran, before it was submitted to Government formally on 31 March 2020.

(Reference – report by the City Region Deal Programme Manager, City of Edinburgh Council, submitted).

## 7. Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) Programme – Update Report

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Details were provided of the progress made of the Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) Programme.

Detailed information on the progress of each of the IRES projects could be found in the Quarterly Report (Appendix 1 of the report), but a few key highlights were listed for noting:

- **Integrated Knowledge Systems (IKS)** – Had completed a range of workshops with regard to the Talent Bank element and a proposal would be developed.
- **Labour Market Analysis (LMA)** – Had appointed a new staff member and had initiated analysis activity in the Health and Social Care sector, following up the work they had done in Tourism and Hospitality. This would be presented to the IRES Board at the June Meeting.
- **Integrated Employer Engagement (IEE)** – Staff team had been recruited and stakeholder engagement was ongoing with particular success linking to Developing Young Workforce groups.
- **Intensive Family Support Service (IFS)** – Legal agreements between Fife Council and the other five local authority partners were being developed. A project specification has been finalised, with local variations linked to the findings from co-production activity and a Public Information Notice (PIN) was posted on Public Contracts Scotland on 12 February 2020, asking for expressions of interest.
- **Housing Construction & Infrastructure (HCI) Skills Gateway** – Wave 1 had commenced across all local authority areas and school outreach was going well. Fife was the only area where engagement with schools had not yet taken place, but contact had been made to set this up.
- **Digital Driven Innovation (DDI) Skills Gateway** – Data Education in Schools programme had commenced and was working in four curriculum areas. Other parts of the project (in Colleges and Universities) would commence in quarter 4. The Equality and Diversity lead, working across both Skills Gateways left post in January and recruitment had begun for a replacement
- **Workforce Mobility** - Project Lead job specification had gone through the evaluation process and would be advertised before end of February 2020.

### Decision

- 1) To note the change made to the Chair of the IRES Board and changes being made to the Skills PMO, in line with the approval from the Executive Board in December 2019.

- 2) To note the progress being made in each of the IRES projects, as outlined in the Quarterly Report (Appendix 1 of the report).
- 3) To support the actions that would be taken forward after the Reflection Workshop held on 22 November 2019.
- 4) To note the work being done with IRES Project Leads to provide Scottish Government with a flattened financial profile for the coming years.
- 5) To agree that the Convener of the Joint Committee would write to the Scottish Government regarding the importance of having flexibility in terms of spend in future years of the project, and that the letter would be circulated by email for approval by the Joint Committee.

(Reference – report by the Chair of the Integrated Regional and Employability Skills Board, Edinburgh and South of Scotland City Region Deal, submitted).

## **8. The A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout Junction Upgrade Scheme**

An update was provided on the A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout Junction Upgrade Scheme.

The agreed terms of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESES CRD) concluded between the City Deal partners and the UK and Scottish Governments, included a commitment by Scottish Government of up to £120m to support improvements to the A720 City Bypass for the grade separation of Sheriffhall Roundabout.

In December 2019 Transport Scotland, acting on behalf of Scottish Ministers, published draft Orders for the scheme to which any objection could be submitted by 31 January 2020. The ESES CRD partners submitted a representation supporting the scheme, urging Scottish Ministers to complete the statutory procedures and implement the upgrade without undue delay.

The Scottish Government budget, approved by the Parliament on 27 February 2020, included a commitment by the Government to engage with the local partners to seek their agreement to undertake a review of the scheme and its compatibility with the Scottish Government's environmental obligations.

At its meeting on 28 February 2020 the City Region Deal Leaders' Group asked the Chair of the City Region Deal Transport Appraisal Board to write to Transport Scotland seeking further information on the scope and timing of this review. In response Transport Scotland had set out their position on the matter as noted in their letter of 5 March 2020 attached at Appendix C to the report.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the content of the correspondence with Transport Scotland in relation to the Scottish Government's commitment to undertake a review of the A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout Junction Upgrade Scheme.
- 2) To agree to articulate clearly and forcefully the serious concerns of the Joint Committee that Scottish Ministers committed to undertaking a review of the A720 Sheriffhall scheme without any prior consultation with, or even notification of, the City Deal Joint Committee.
- 3) To agree that, along with senior Transport Scotland officials, the relevant Scottish Ministers were invited to the intended additional meeting of the Joint Committee to consider the implications of the prospective Scottish Government review of the scheme.

(Reference – report by the Transport Appraisal Board, Edinburgh and South of Scotland City Region Deal, submitted).