

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

10 am, Friday 4 December 2020

Regional Growth Framework Update

Item number

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the development of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Growth Framework (RGF), covering:

- A general update since progress was last reported to the Joint Committee in March 2020;
- Initial proposals in terms of the focus of the RGF; and
- Proposed timescale to produce the RGF.

Monica Patterson

Chief Officer, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal

Contact: Andy Nichol, Programme Manager, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal

E-mail: andy.nichol@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4461

Regional Growth Framework

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee are recommended to:
 - 1.1.1 Note progress to date on the development of the Regional Growth Framework;
 - 1.1.2 Consider and endorse the proposed vision and themes which will guide the focus of the RGF; and
 - 1.1.3 Note the proposed timescale to produce the RGF, including timeframe for wider consultation.

2. Background

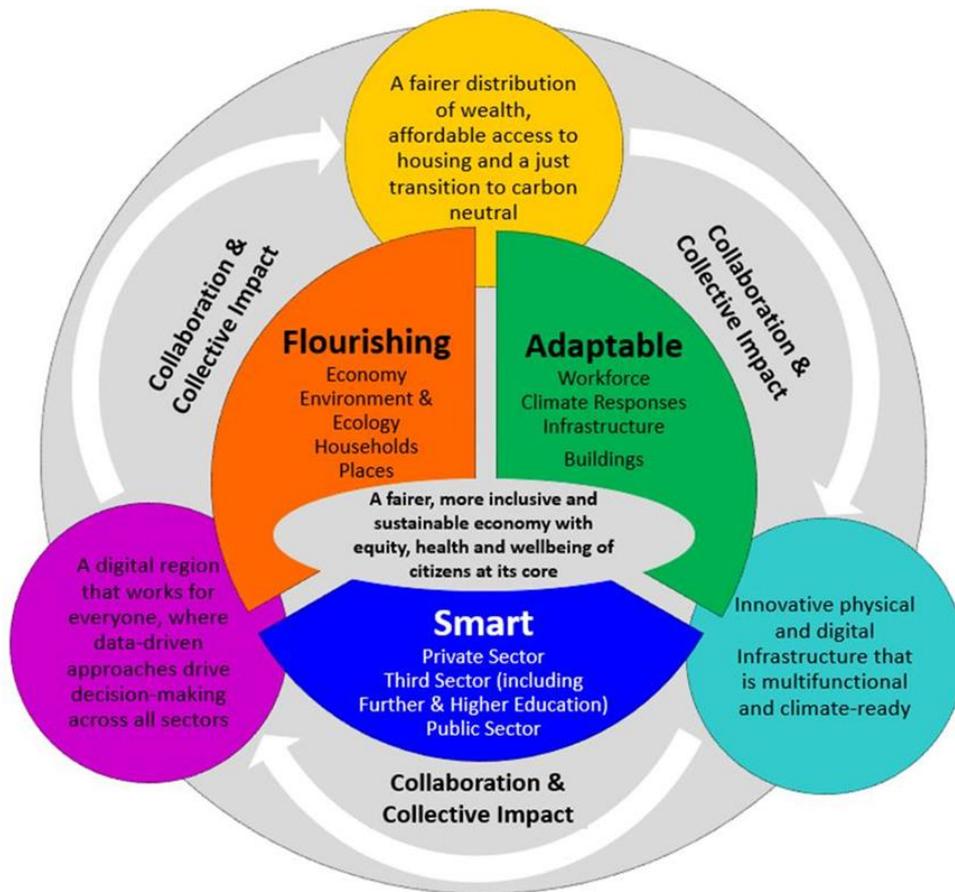
- 2.1 Building on the success of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland (ESES) City Region Deal, the Deal Partners agreed to the development of a broader Regional Growth Framework (RGF), a document which would seek to articulate the long term aspirational goals for Edinburgh and South East Scotland, and guide the future direction of the local authorities and a range of other public sector organisations. Specifically, it seeks to set an ambitious 20-year vision for the region, up until 2040.
- 2.2 Recent years have seen the benefits of closer collaboration across the public sector to ensure more effective and efficient use of resources, and co-ordinating support towards common goals, such as achieving a more sustainable and equitable society.
- 2.3 In terms of its purpose, the Framework is a non-statutory document led by ESES City Region Deal partners and other key strategic partners operating across the Region. It is a public statement of aligned vision, ambition and priorities for South East Scotland, seeking to influence and be influenced by plans and strategies developed at national, regional and local levels.
- 2.4 Its overall aim is to 'to inform future approaches, strategies and policies across sustainability, transport, planning, housing and economic development to enable the region to generate and spread sustainable inclusive growth and enable it to transition to a low carbon economy'. In doing so, it aims to ensure that the success of the region can continue to be realised and that the region continues to be a key driver of

the Scottish economy. It seeks to identify how regional partners can build on the opportunities created by the City Region Deal.

- 2.5 Early work in the development of the RGF was undertaken in late 2019 and early 2020, with the initial intention of producing a draft for wider consultation by summer 2020. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on this timescale, delaying the process. In addition to this, the need for the Scottish economy to consider and plan for the post-Covid economy has prompted a review of the focus and initial priorities within the Plan.
- 2.6 The following progress report summarises work to date, the proposed focus of the RGF and revised timescale for its production.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The Framework seeks to set out a 20-year roadmap to help the economy address the significant challenges and opportunities ahead. In addition to supporting a post Covid economic recovery, the region needs to be in a position to address the national priorities of Scotland becoming a sustainable, inclusive and zero carbon economy, supporting wellbeing for all of its people.
- 3.2 During this year analysis has been undertaken to understand both the changing external challenges and opportunities that will impact on the region, as well as the unique strengths and weaknesses that the region has at present, and ensure that the RGF seeks to maximise the potential for the whole region in the decades ahead
- 3.3 Early work sought to identify a vision for the Region and the broad Themes that seek to maximise the opportunities which the Region offers, while addressing the challenges which it faces, both existing and as a result of Covid-19 and its impact. As a region we need to start from the premise that there are no boundaries between us or others, and that our Vision is as much about how we adopt the right approach and behaviours when we collaborate as it is achieving the positive outcomes we aspire to.
- 3.4 Our collective draft vision for the region is:
 - 3.4.1 *We will continue to drive the Scottish economy and successfully accommodate our growth to deliver a fairer and more inclusive distribution of wealth to all our communities. We will make best use of our existing assets to create adaptable, flourishing and smart places to ensure that the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region delivers for all its citizens as we transition to a zero carbon economy.*
- 3.5 Three broad interlinked Themes (Flourishing, Adaptable and Smart) have been identified to support this vision and these are outlined in the following diagram.



3.6 Further work has been undertaken to expand each of the theme's in terms of the scope of short, medium and long term actions, recognising existing commitments, such as the City Region Deal projects, as well as potential new pipeline projects that might be considered to address the challenges of a post-Covid, inclusive and zero carbon economy. These have included initial workshop's looking at future regional economic scenarios for the region as well as key elements of a sustainable regional economy. The outputs from these processes are being fed into the RGF drafting process (copies of the outputs from these workshop sessions are available on request).

3.7 An early output from this work has been the development of a logic model, which seeks to outline the process and focus within each Theme, articulating where the Region is as present, where it is seeking to get to over the period of the framework, and what needs to happen to support this.

3.8 As previously indicated, Covid-19 has had an impact in terms of the timescale for the production of the RGF. The timescale and its various stages have been revised and are outlined below. This is organised into five stages:

3.8.1 Stage 1 – develop a response to NPF 4 Call for Ideas outlining regional aspirations (complete)

3.8.2 Stage 2 – develop a logic model that identifies strategic aspirations and actions for each of the RGF themes (Current – March 2021)

3.8.3 Stages 3 and 4 – stakeholder engagement, develop a draft RGF for consultation, consultation, finalisation of RGF and formal approval (Mar 2021 – Sep 2021)

3.8.4 Stage 5 – delivery of RGF Action Plan (Sep 2021 onwards)

3.9 These stages and key tasks are summarised below:

RGF Project Timeline	2020			2021								
	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Phase 1 (completed)												
NPF4 Call for Ideas												
Phase 2 - Logic Modelling												
Develop and Draft Model												
Sustainable Economy Workshop		2										
ESESCRD Directors Input		5	3									
ESESCRD Executive Input		19										
Update to Joint Committee			4			5						
Update to Regional Enterprise Council			11									
Phase 3 - Stakeholder Engagement and development of consultation draft												
Elected Member Oversight Group Established												
Ongoing Elected Member Oversight Group meetings												
Input from Regional Enterprise Council to inform draft						19						
Input from Directors to inform consultation draft												
Executive Review of consultation draft												
Approval of consultation draft by Joint Committee									4			
Phase 4 - Consultation and Finalisation of Document												
Consultation Period												
Incorporate Feedback and finalise RGF												
Approval of final RGF by Joint Committee												3
Final Publication and Launch Event												
Phase 5 - Delivery												
Action Plan Delivery (September onwards)												→

3.10 In terms of resources to support the development of the RGF, the staff resource agreed by partners at the outset of the RGF work has been extended to allow the commitments above to be delivered. This includes staff time from Scottish Enterprise; The City of Edinburgh Council; East Lothian Council; Fife Council; Scottish Borders Council; and the ESES City Region Deal PMO.

3.11 The RGF will also be developed with input from the City Region Deal thematic boards: Housing, Skills, DDI and Transport including SEStran.

4. Financial impact

4.1 At this stage in the process, there are no financial implications in the development of the RGF.

5. Alignment with Sustainable, Inclusive Growth Ambitions

5.1 The production of the RGF is closely aligned with the existing ambitions of the City Deal Partners. It seeks to build on the inclusive sustainable growth objectives within the City Region Deal and align closely to programme for Government.

5.2 On 2 November 2020, regional partners held a Sustainable Economy workshop to consider a sustainable regional economy and climate change. The outputs from the workshop including cross-boundary opportunities and priorities for the region are

currently being processed. A further workshop will take place on 8 December to distil outputs and determine priorities and opportunities to include in Regional Growth Framework.

6. Background reading/external references

- 6.1 [Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Document](#) (August 2018)
- 6.2 [Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Growth Framework](#) (September 2019)
- 6.3 [Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Response to National Planning Framework 4 "Call for Ideas"](#) (March 2020)

7. Appendices

- 7.1 None.